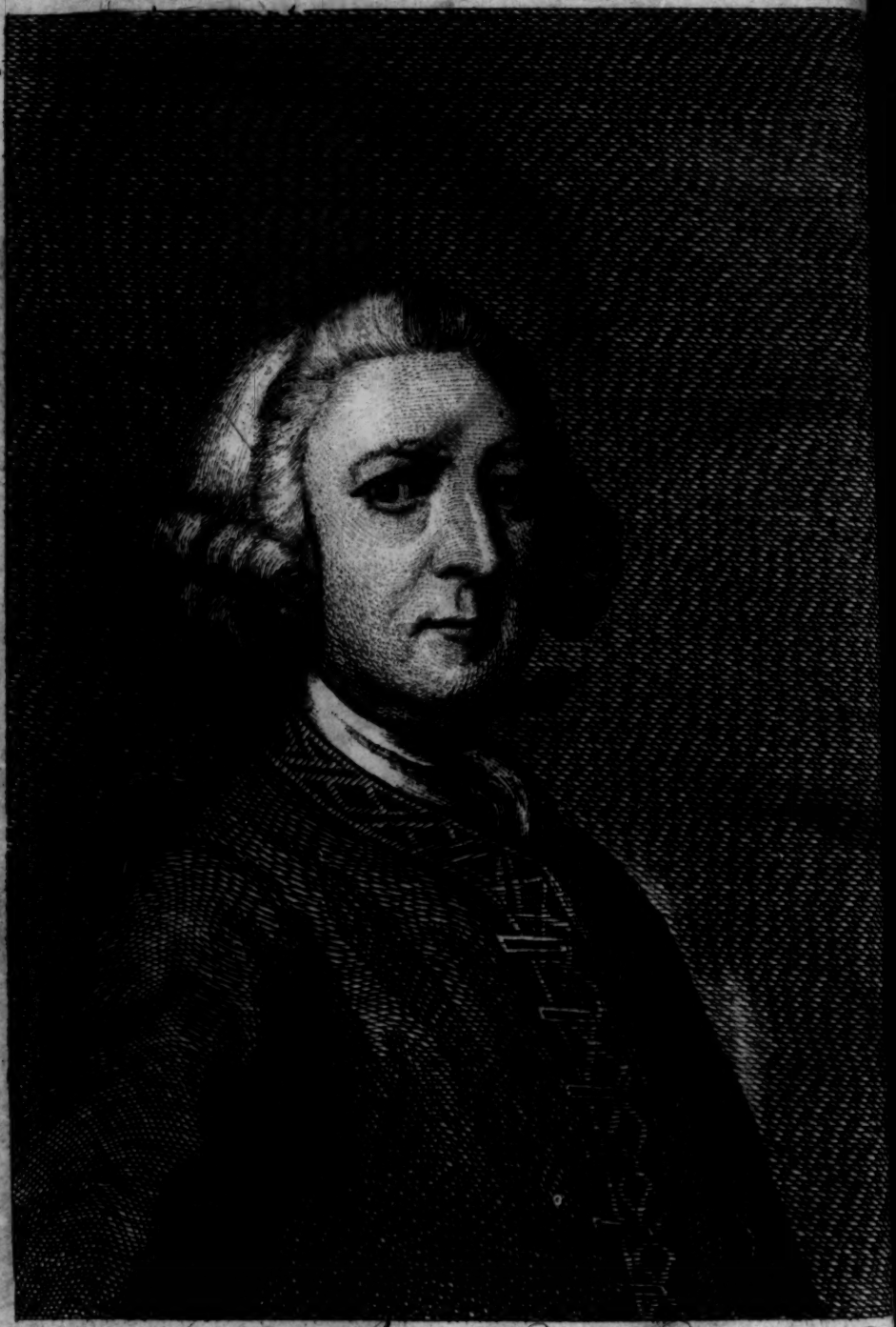
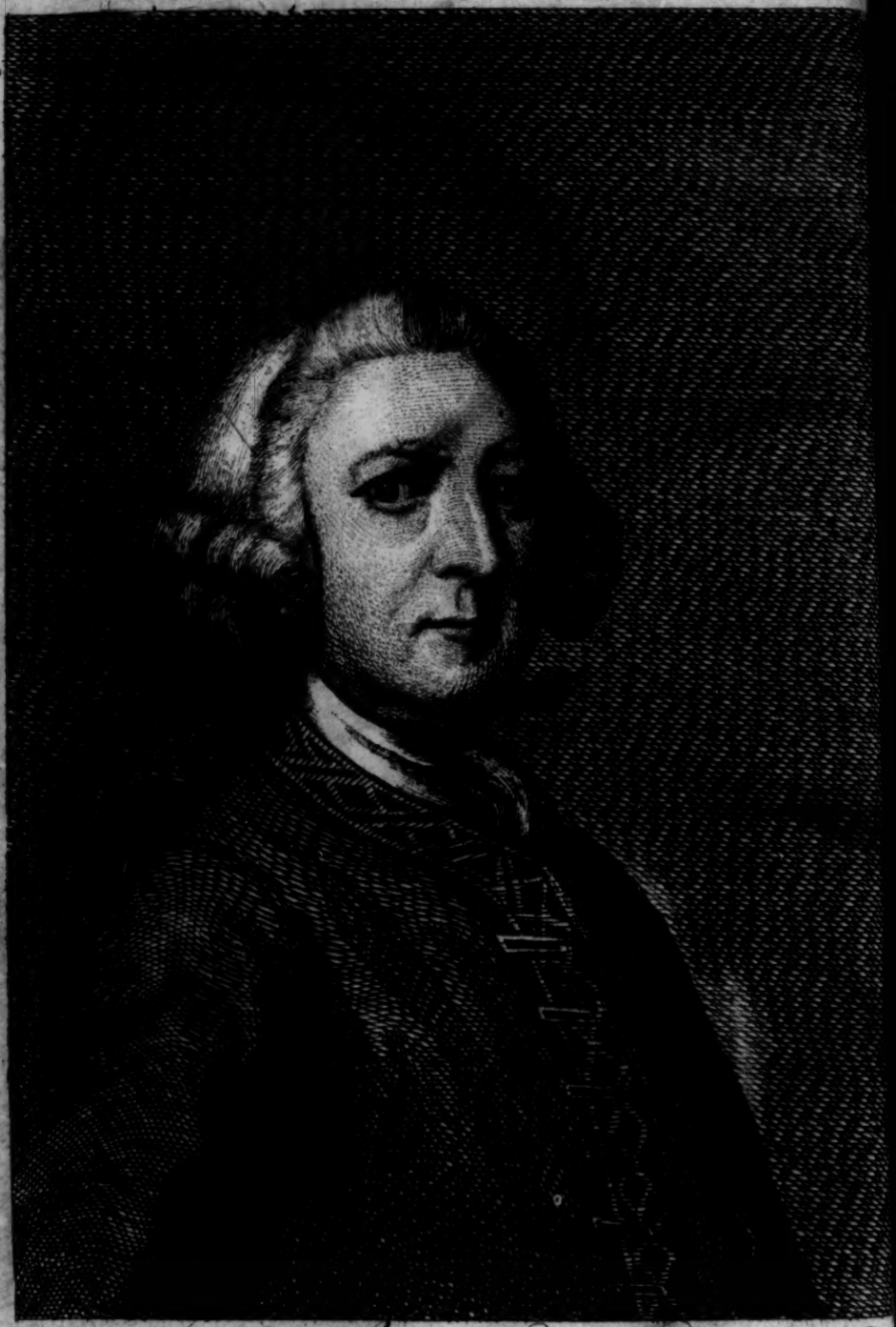


The Right Hon.ble George
Lord Anson.



The Right Hon.ble George
Lord Anson.

THE

HISTORY

OF

COMMODORE ANSON's

VOYAGE

ROUND THE

WORLD,

At the Commencement of the late

SPANISH WAR.

Performed in three Years and nine Months, *viz.* from September 1740 to June 1744.

By a MIDSHIPMAN on Board the CENTURION.

LONDON,
Printed for M. COOPER in Paternoster-Row.

M DCC LXVII.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE

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THE

James

THE HISTORY OF COMMODORE ANSON's* VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD.

CHAP. I.

Of the equipment of the ſquadron. Its paſſage from St. Helen's to the iſland of Madeira. with a ſhort account of that iſland. The paſſage from thence to St. Catherine's. That iſland deſcribed.

IN the year 1739, a war with Spain appearing inevitable, it was propoſed to cut off all the principal reſources of the Spaniards, and to deprive them of the returns of that treaſure, which, alone, could enable

* He was created Lord Anſon in 1747, firſt lord of the admiralty 1751, and in 1761 commanded the ſquadron that brought over the Queen, which was the laſt ſervice his lordſhip performed. He died June 6. 1762.

them to carry on a war againſt Great Britain. For this purpoſe ſeveral projects were examined, and reſolutions taken by the council, and it was at length determined that Mr. Anſon ſhould be ſent with a ſquadron to the South Seas; but the execution of this project was delayed, and indeed ſuch meaſures were taken as had a natural tendency to render it ineffectual; for though a conſiderable number of land forces were at firſt allowed, it was at length, from ſome ſtrange infatuation, agreed, that only 98 marines ſhould go on board, and that inſtead of land forces, their place ſhould be ſupplied with 500 invalids, collected from the out-penſioners of Chelſea college. Of theſe the moſt crazy and infirm were choſen for this laborious and hazardous undertaking; and thoſe, who had the free uſe of their limbs, deſerting, none were left for this important enterprize, but the moſt decrepid and miſerable objects that could be collected out of the whole body. The voyage was alſo retarded by the commodore's being obliged to take on board two agent victuallers; with merchandize to the value of 15,000 *l.* which they were to exchange on the coaſt of the South Sea for proviſions. By theſe, and other delays, the voyage was deferred till the ſeaſon of the year when the weſterly winds are generally conſtant and very violent, and the difficulties and dangers of the paſſage the greateſt; and, in ſhort, till the Spaniards were fully acquainted with the admiral's deſtination.

On the 18th of September, 1740, the admiral, for fear of ruining the enterprize, weighed from St. Helen's with a contrary wind, and cleared the channel in four days. The ſquadron conſiſted of the Centurion of 60 guns and 400 men, commanded by George Anſon, Eſq;

the

the Glouceſter of 50 guns and 300 men; the Severn of 50 guns and 300 men; the Pearl of 40 guns and 250 men; the Wager of 28 guns and 160 men; the Tryal ſloop of 8 guns and 100 men, and two victuallers, which were pinks, the largeſt of about 400, and the other about 200 tons burden. But the winds continuing contrary, they had the mortification to be forty days in their paſſage from St. Helen's to Madeira though it is often performed in ten or twelve.

Madeira is ſituated in a fine and healthful climate *, and is compoſed of one continued hill of a conſiderable height, which extends from eaſt to weſt. On the ſouth ſide, the declivity is cultivated, and interſperſed with vineyards and country ſeats belonging to the merchants. The only conſiderable town in the iſland is Fonchiale, which is ſituated on the ſouth, at the bottom of a large bay; it is defended by a high wall with a battery of cannon, and a fortified caſtle, which ſtands on the Loo, a rock that riſes above the water at a ſmall diſtance from the ſhore. This town is the only place where it is poſſible for a boat to land, and even there a violent ſurf continually beats upon the beach. The iſland is juſtly famous for its excellent wines, which ſeem by providence deſigned for the refreſhment of the inhabitants of the torrid zone.

Here Mr. Anſon learned from the governor, that a few days before his arrival, ſeven or eight ſhips, ſuppoſed to belong to the Spaniards, had appeared to the weſtward of the iſland; on which Mr. Anſon diſpatched an officer in a clean light ſloop to diſcover who they were;

* This iſland is in latitude of 32°. 27'. and longitude from London 18° ½ to 19° ½ weſt, though laid down in the charts at 17°.

but the officer returned without being able to get ſight of them. Mr. Anſon had great reaſon to ſuſpect that theſe ſhips were apprized of his deſigns, and were diſpatched to prepare the Spaniſh ſettlements for his reception; and the juſtice of theſe ſuſpicions afterwards appeared from his diſcovering that the court of Spain had actually fitted out a ſquadron to attend his motions, and traverſe his projects.

The commodore having at this iſland ſupplied the ſhips with as much wine, water, and other refreſhments as they could take in, weighed anchor on the 3d of November, and the day after, gave orders to the captains, that in caſe the ſquadron ſhould be ſeparated, to rendezvous at the iſland of St. Catherine's; and on the 19th the Induſtry pink having fulfilled her charter party, and her cargo being divided amongſt the other veſſels, ſhe parted company, being bound for Barbadoes, to take in a freight for England, but in her return from that iſland was unhappily taken by the Spaniards.

In this long run, the men grew remarkably ſickly, ſo that many died, and great numbers were confined to their hammocks, on which account the commodore ordered ſix air ſcuttles to be cut in each ſhip, to let in more air between decks. They were afflicted with calentures, a kind of fevers that are not only terrible while they laſt, but even the remains of the diſeaſe often proved fatal to thoſe who thought themſelves recovered, and always left them weak and helpleſs. This diſorder daily encreaſing while they continued at ſea, they were filled with extraordinary joy at the diſcovery of the coaſt of Braſil, on the 16th of December in the morning, and on the evening of the 18th, they caſt anchor at the north-weſt point of the iſland of St. Catherine's. They

They perceived at a diſtance two fortifications which ſeemed intended to guard the paſſage between the iſland and the main, and ſeeing two forts hoiſt their colours and fire ſeveral guns, probably as ſignals for aſſembling the inhabitants, the commodore concluded that his ſquadron had alarmed the coaſt, and therefore, to prevent confuſion, ſent a boat with an officer on ſhore to complement the governor, and deſire a pilot to carry the veſſels into the road. The governor returned an obliging anſwer, and having ſent them a pilot, they anchored in a large commodious bay on the continent, called by the French Bon-port, and next day moored at St. Catherine's.

As it was neceſſary that the care of the ſick ſhould firſt employ their thoughts, the commodore gave orders that each ſhip ſhould erect two tents, one for the diſeaſed, and the other for the ſurgeon and his aſſiſtants; after which about 80 ſick perſons were landed from the Centurion, and nearly as many from the other ſhips, in proportion to their number of hands. This neceſſary duty being performed, the ſhips were next cleanſed, ſmoaked, and every part well waſhed with vinegar. After which every method was taken to ſecure the veſſels againſt the tempeſtuous weather the people had reaſon to expect in their paſſage round Cape Horn.

St. Catherine's * though about nine leagues in length, is no where above two in breadth, and though it is of a conſiderable height, it can hardly be perceived at ten leagues diſtance, it being obſcured by the prodigious mountains behind it on the continent of Braſil.

* This iſland lies in 40°. 45'. weſt longitude from London, and extends from the ſouth latitude of 27°. 35'. to that of 28°.

This iſland is covered with a foreſt of trees, that retain their verdure all ſeaſons. But it is ſo entangled with underwood, thorns, and briars, as to form an impenetrable thicket, except in ſome narrow paths made by the inhabitants for their own convenience, and theſe, with a few ſpots along the ſhore facing the continent, that are cleared for plantations, are the only uncovered parts of the iſland. The many aromatic trees and ſhrubs with which the woods abound, render them extremely fragrant. Theſe woods alſo ſpontaneouſly produce many kinds of fine fruit; and the production of all climates thrive almoſt without culture, ſo that here are plenty of pine apples, citrons, lemons, oranges, melons, apricots, peaches, grapes and plantains. There are here alſo great plenty of pheaſants, but they are far from taſting ſo well as thoſe in England. They have likewiſe ſmall wild cattle reſembling buffaloes; theſe, however, are but indifferent food, their fleſh being looſe, and of a diſagreeable flavour. The other proviſions of the iſland are parrots, monkies, and particularly fiſh of various kinds, which laſt are exceeding good, and eaſily caught. The water alſo was excellent, and is as fit for the ſea as that of Thames.

Theſe advantages are counterbalanced by many inconveniencies. The woods and hills that ſurround the harbour prevent a free circulating air; and there is ſuch a quantity of vapour produced by the vigorous vegetation of the place, that the whole country is all the night covered with a thick fog. In the day-time the men were peſtered with muſcatoes, reſembling the gnats in England, but more venomous in their ſtings; and when theſe retired at ſun-ſet, they were ſucceeded by an infinite

number

number of ſand-flies, which made a mighty buzzing, tho' they are ſcarcely to be perceived by the naked eye. Their bite raiſes a ſmall pimple in the fleſh, which is ſoon attended with a painful itching, like that ariſing from the harveſt bug in England. In ſhort the ſailors had a melancholy proof of the unhealthfulneſs of the climate; for the Centurion alone buried no leſs than 28 men after her arrival, and yet the number of her ſick was in the ſame interval increaſed from 80 to 96.

The ſquadron alſo ſuffered many inconveniencies from the form of government, and new regulations lately eſtabliſhed in the iſland. It was formerly only a retreat of vagabonds and out-laws, who fled thither from all parts of Braſil, and who having plenty of proviſions, but no money, ſupported themſelves without the aſſiſtance of any neighbouring ſettlements. While in this ſituation, they were extremely hoſpitable and friendly to ſuch foreign ſhips as came amongſt them; for as thoſe ſhips wanted only proviſions, and the natives wanted only cloaths, the ſhips furniſhed them with the latter in exchange for the former, and both ſides were highly pleaſed with this traffic. But of late, ſince the diſcovery of the gold and diamonds on the oppoſite coaſt, they had been obliged to ſubmit to new laws, and a new form of government. They had at this time, inſtead of their former ragged bare-footed captain, a governor named Don Joſe Sylva de Pas, who had a garriſon of ſoldiers, lived ſplendidly, and had a better knowledge of the importance of money, than his more honeſt predeceſſors, and therefore took ſeveral ways of procuring it, which they were intirely unacquainted with. One of theſe was placing centinels at all the avenues to prevent the people.

ſelling refreſhments to the ſhips, except at ſuch extravagant prices as they could not afford to give, pretending he was obliged to preſerve proviſions for above one hundred families, with which he daily expected the colony to be reinforced But this was not the worſt part of his conduct; he was deeply engaged in a ſmuggling traffic, in exchanging gold for ſilver, by which the kings of Spain and Portugal were defrauded of their fifth; and in order to ingratiate himſelf with his Spaniſh correſpondents, had the treachery to diſpatch an expreſs to Pizarro, the commander of the Spaniſh ſquadron, fitted out to traverſe Mr. Anſon's projects, and who then lay at Buenos-Ayres, in the river of Plate, with a particular account of every circumſtance he could ſuppoſe the enemy deſirous of being acquainted with.

While they were at this iſland they diſcovered a ſail to the offing, and the commodore ſuſpecting that ſhe might be a Spaniard, gave orders for manning his eighteen oared boat, which he ſent to examine her, under the command of the ſecond lieutenant, before ſhe arrived within the protection of the forts. But ſhe proving a Portugueſe brigantine from Rio Grande, the lieutenant behaved with the utmoſt civility, and even refuſed to accept a calf which the maſter would have forced upon him as a preſent. Notwithſtanding this the governor was greatly offended at Mr. Anſon's ſending the boat, and repreſented it as a violation of the peace, ſubſiſting between Great Britain and Portugal. This ridiculous bluſtering was at firſt imputed to no deeper cauſe than Don Joſe's inſolence, but as he proceeded to charge the lieutenant, with behaving rudely, opening letters, and attempting to take by violence the very calf he had re-

fuſed

fuſed to receive as a preſent, there was reaſon to ſuſpect, that he raiſed this groundleſs clamour only to prevent their viſiting the brigantine, when ſhe ſhould put to ſea again, and diſcover the ſecret of his ſmuggling correſpondence with the neighbouring governors.

CHAP. II.

The commodore proceeds from St. Catherine's to Port St. Julian's. That port and the country to the ſouth of the river Plate deſcribed. His paſſage from thence to Streights le Mair. The diſtreſſes of the ſquadron in doubling Cape Horn. Its arrival at the iſland of Juan Fernandes.

THE ſquadron being refitted, and a ſupply of freſh proviſions taken in, it ſet ſail from St. Catherine's on the 18th of January 1741, in order to proceed to a deſart and inhoſpitable coaſt, and a more boiſterous climate than any they had yet experienced; and three days after, they had a moſt violent ſtorm, attended with ſo thick a fog, that it was impoſſible to ſee at the diſtance of two ſhips length, ſo that the ſhips could not diſtinguiſh one another; however, the next day at noon, when the fog diſperſed, Mr. Anſon diſcovered all the ſhips of the ſquadron except the Pearl, which did not join him till near a month afterwards. However, in this ſtorm the Tryal ſloop was a great way to the leeward; for ſhe had loſt her main-maſt, and for fear of bilging, had been obliged to cut away the raft: the commodore therefore bore down with the ſquadron to her relief, and a great ſwell ſtill continuing, the Glouceſter was ordered to take her in tow, and again ſtand to the ſouthward.

On the 18th of February they diſcovered a ſail, when the Severn and Glouceſter were ordered to chace; but Mr. Anſon perceiving it to be the Pearl, which had been ſeparated from the ſquadron in a ſtorm, a ſignal was made for the Severn to rejoin the ſquadron, and to leave the Glouceſter alone in the purſuit; but to the ſurprize of the ſquadron it was obſerved, that on the Glouceſter's approach, the people on board the Pearl increaſed their ſails, and ſtood from her. The Glouceſter notwithſtanding this came up with them, when ſhe found their hammocks in their nettings, and every thing ready for an engagement. The Pearl having joined the commodore, lieutenant Salt informed him, that on the 10th inſtant he had ſeen five Spaniſh men of war, which for ſome time he imagined to belong to the Britiſh ſquadron, and that he had ſuffered the commanding ſhip, which wore a red broad pendent, exactly reſembling the commodore's, to come within gun-ſhot of him before he diſcovered his miſtake; but finding that it was not the Centurion, he crouded from them with all his ſail, and happily eſcaped, though the whole ſquadron continued the chace all that day.

On the 18th of February the ſquadron came to an anchor in the bay of St. Julian on the coaſt of Patagonia, when the Tryal was immediately put in repair; and as this port is a convenient rendezvous in caſe of ſeparation, for all cruiſers bound to the ſouthward, a deſcription of it, and of the coaſt of Patagonia cannot be unacceptable to the curious.

The country ſtiled Patagonia extends from the Spaniſh ſettlements in South America, to the ſtreights of Magellan. It is very remarkable, that, though the whole coun-

try

try north of the river Plate is ſtored with immenſe quantities of large timber, yet no trees of any kind are to be met with ſouth of that river, except a few fruit trees planted by the Spaniards near Buenos-Ayres: thus the whole eaſtern coaſt of Patagonia, extending 1200 miles in length, and as far back as any diſcoveries have been yet made, has no other wood than a few inſignificant ſhrubs.

The land however appears to be compoſed of downs, of a dry gravelly ſoil, covered with turfs of long coarſe graſs, interſperſed with barren ſpots, where nothing is to be ſeen but gravel. In many places this graſs feeds immenſe herds of black cattle, a few of which were brought over by the Spaniards, after their firſt ſettling at Buenos-Ayres, and theſe have multiplied to ſuch a ſurprizing degree, and have ſpread ſo far into the different parts of the country, that they are not conſidered as private property; many thouſands of them being annually ſlaughtered by the hunters merely for their hides and tallow. Theſe hunters are mounted on horſeback, and armed with a ſpear, which, inſtead of having a blade at the end, fixed in the ſame line with the wood, is fixed acroſs. With this inſtrument they purſue the beaſt, and the hunter who comes behind hamſtrings him, after which the beaſt ſoon falls, without being able to riſe again, when the hunters cruelly leave him, and purſue others, who are ſerved in the ſame manner. Sometimes, indeed, a ſecond party attends the hunters to ſkin the cattle as they fall; but it is ſaid that at other times they chuſe inhumanly to ſuffer the poor creatures to languiſh in torment till the next day, from an opinion that the anguiſh endured by the animal facilitates the ſeparation of the ſkin from the carcaſe; a barbarous practice, which,

though

though the prieſts have loudly condemned, they have not been able entirely to put a ſtop to it. The fleſh of the cattle killed in this manner is left to putrify, or to be devoured by the birds and wild beaſts, and particularly wild dogs, of which there are immenſe numbers; theſe are ſuppoſed to have been originally produced by Spaniſh dogs from Buenos-Ayres; but being allured by the plenty of carrion, left their maſters, and ran wild among the cattle.

Beſides the black cattle annually ſlaughtered for their hides and tallow, many of them are frequently taken alive, without wounding them, for the uſes of agriculture and other purpoſes. This is performed with almoſt incredible dexterity. The hunters, who are mounted on horſeback, take a very ſtrong thong, of ſeveral fathoms in length, at one end of which is a running nooſe; they hold it in the right-hand, and it being properly coiled up, and the oppoſite end faſtened to the ſaddle, they ride at a herd of cattle, and when they come within a certain diſtance of the beaſt they intend to catch, throw the thong with ſuch exactneſs, that they never fail to fix the nooſe about his horns. The beaſt generally runs, as ſoon as he finds himſelf entangled; but the horſe, having greater ſwiftneſs, attends him till a ſecond hunter throws another nooſe about one of his hind legs. and then both horſes inſtantly turn different ways, by which means the beaſt is preſently overthrown, and while the horſes keep the thongs upon the ſtretch, the hunters alight, and ſecure him in ſuch a manner, as eaſily to convey him where-ever they pleaſe. They alſo in the ſame manner, nooſe horſes; and there are not wanting perſons of credit who aſſert, that by the ſame method they catch even tigers,

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The horſes, which were originally from Spain, are not only prodigiouſly encreaſed, but have run wild even to a greater diſtance than the black cattle; and though many of theſe are fine ones, yet their numbers render them of ſuch little value, that the beſt of them are often ſold in the neighbouring ſettlements, where money alſo is plentiful, for a dollar a piece.

Throughout this whole country there are alſo conſiderable numbers of vicunnas, or Peruvian ſheep; but theſe being remarkably ſhy, and extremely ſwift, cannot be killed without difficulty. On this coaſt too there are vaſt numbers of ſeals, and a prodigious variety of ſea-fowls; the moſt remarkable of theſe are the penguins, which in ſhape and ſize reſemble a gooſe; but inſtead of wings have ſhort ſtumps like fins, that are of no uſe to them except in the water. Their bills are narrow, and as they ſtand and walk in an erect poſture, Sir John Narborough has whimſically compared them to little children ſtanding up with white aprons before them. A principal diſadvantage in this country is the ſcarcity of freſh water, which however has been ſometimes found in ſmall quantities, but the ponds and ſtreams are generally brackiſh.

On this part of the coaſt, which at port St. Julian is not above 300 miles over, there ſeems to be but few inhabitants; but in the neighbourhood of Buenos-Ayres, where the continent is four times as broad, and the climate much milder, they are ſufficiently numerous, and excel the more ſouthern Indians in activity and ſpirit. In their bravery they nearly reſemble the gallant Indians of Chili, who have frequently ſet the powers of Spain at defiance, have often ravaged their country, and ſtill remain

main independent. They are generally excellent horſemen, and extremely expert in the uſe of all military weapons except fire arms, which the Spaniards are very ſollicitous to conceal from them; and indeed the beſt way of ſubverting the Spaniſh power in America, ſeems to be that of giving due encouragement to theſe Indians, and to thoſe of Chili.

It has been obſerved by Sir John Narborough, that port St. Julian produces excellent ſalt; and that in February, the ſalt found there was ſufficient to fill 1000 ſhips; but on Mr. Anſon's ſending an officer to the ſalt pond, to get a quantity of ſalt for the uſe of the ſquadron, he found that it was ſcarce and bad, which might probably be occaſioned by the wetneſs of the ſeaſon.

The Tryal being refitted, which was one of their principal employments at the bay of St Julian, and the only occaſion of their ſtay, the commodore held a council of the principal officers on board the Centurion, and informed them, that he was ordered to endeavour to ſecure ſome port in the South Seas, where the ſhips of the ſquadron might be careened and refitted, and propoſed to attack Baldivia, the principal frontier of Chili; to which the council unanimouſly agreeing, new inſtructions were given to the captains of the ſquadron, importing, that in caſe of a ſeparation, they were to make the beſt of their way to the iſland of Nueſtro Senora del Socoro, where they were to cruize only ten days; when, if they were not joined by the commodore, they were to proceed and cruize fourteen days off the harbour of Baldivia; and if not joined by the reſt of the ſquadron, to direct their courſe to the iſland of Juan Fernandes. It was alſo ordered that no ſhip ſhould keep at a greater diſtance

ſtance from the Centurion than two miles, without an unavoidable neceſſity.

Theſe regulations being eſtabliſhed, the ſquadron weighed anchor on Friday the 27th of February in the morning; but the Glouceſter not being able to purchaſe her anchor, was left a conſiderable way a-ſtern, and obliged to cut her cable, and leave her bower behind. On the 4th of March, when we were in ſight of Cape Virgin Mary, the afternoon being bright and clear, moſt of the captains took that opportunity to pay a viſit to the commodore; but while they were in company, they were all greatly alarmed by a ſudden flame burſting from the Glouceſter, ſucceeded by a cloud of ſmoke; but their apprehenſions were ſoon removed, by the information that the blaſt was occaſioned by a ſpark from the forge lighting on a quantity of gunpowder, and other combuſtibles, which an officer on board was preparing for uſe, in caſe it ſhould happen that they ſhould engage the Spaniſh fleet; and that it had been extinguiſhed before the ſhip had received the leaſt damage.

The ſquadron found that in theſe high latitudes, fair weather was of very ſhort duration, and that when it was remarkably fine, it was a certain preſage of a ſucceeding ſtorm. The fine afternoon juſt mentioned ended in a moſt turbulent night, ſucceeded by a dreadful ſtorm the next morning, which continued all day: but at midnight the wind abated, and the ſucceeding morning they diſcovered the land called Terra del Fuego, which afforded a very uncomfortable proſpect, it being of a ſtupendous height, and every where covered with ſnow.

On the 7th of March they began to open the ſtreights, and had a proſpect of Statenland, an iſland, which in the wildneſs

wildneſs and horror of its appearance, far ſurpaſſed Terra del Fuego. It ſeemed entirely compoſed of inacceſſible rocks, which, without the leaſt mixture of earth, terminated in a great number of ragged points, that aroſe to an amazing height: all of them were covered with ſnow, and on every ſide ſurrounded with frightful precipices, while the hills which bear them are generally ſeparated from each other by clefts through the main ſubſtance of the rocks, almoſt to their very bottoms; nothing can be imagined more dreadful and gloomy; theſe ſtupendous chaſms appearing as if produced by frequent earthquakes. The ſquadron was hurried thro' theſe ſtreights by the rapidity of the tide in about two hours, though they are between ſeven and eight leagues in length. As theſe are uſually reckoned the boundaries of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, the men began to hope that their dangers were almoſt at an end, and flattering themſelves that they had now nothing but an open ſea till they arrived at thoſe wealthy coaſts, where all their wiſhes were centered, they imagined that they were on the point of realizing the golden dreams on which they had feaſted ſo long in imagination. Theſe pleaſing ideas were greatly heightened by the brightneſs of the ſky, and ſerenity of the weather; for though the winter was advancing, yet the morning of that day was as mild and delightful as any they had ſeen ſince their departure from England. But they had ſcarcely reached the ſouthern extremity of ſtreights le Mair, when all theſe pleaſing hopes were inſtantly loſt in the proſpect of immediate deſtruction; for before the ſternmoſt ſhips of the ſquadron were clear of the ſtreights, the ſky became ſuddenly obſcured, and the wind ſhifting to the ſouthward, blew in

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the moſt violent ſqualls, while the tide, which had hitherto favoured them, turned furiouſly, and drove them to eaſtward with prodigious rapidity, ſo that they were in the greateſt anxiety for the two ſternmoſt veſſels, the Wager and the Anna pink, fearing leaſt they ſhould be daſhed to pieces on the ſhore of Statenland, which indeed they with the utmoſt difficulty eſcaped.

From this day, for about three months, they ſtruggled with ſuch dangers and diſtreſſes as are ſcarcely to be paralleled, and had a continual ſucceſſion of ſuch tempeſtuous weather, as ſurprized the oldeſt and moſt experienced mariners, who confeſſed that what they had hitherto called ſtorms, were inconſiderable gales, compared with the violence of theſe winds, which raiſed ſuch ſhort and ſuch mountainous waves that juſtly filled them with continual terror; for had but one of theſe waves broke over them, it would probably have ſent them to the bottom. The ſhips rolled inceſſantly, and the men were in continual danger of being daſhed to pieces againſt the decks and ſides of the ſhips; for though they took all poſſible care to ſecure themſelves from theſe ſhocks, by graſping ſome fixed body, yet many uſeful people were forced from their hold, and either killed or diſabled. Theſe tempeſts were rendered ſtill more miſchievous, from the manner of their approach; for if the men after being frequently reduced to lie at the mercy of the waves under their bare poles, ſometimes ventured to make ſail, with their courſes double reefed, and the weather proving more tolerable, would encourage them to ſet their top-ſails, the wind would ſuddenly come with redoubled force, and in an inſtant tare the ſails from the yards; and to increaſe the diſtreſs, theſe blaſts common-

ly brought with them a great quantity of ſnow and ſleet, which froze the ſails, and rendered both them and the cordage ſo brittle, as to ſnap upon the ſlighteſt ſtrain, while at the ſame time it benumbed the limbs of the people, and even diſabled many of them, by mortifying their fingers and toes. The Centurion by labouring in this lofty ſea, in which ſhe frequently ſhipped great quantities of water, grew ſo looſe in her upper works, that ſhe let in the water in every ſeam, and ſcarcely any of the officers ever lay in dry beds.

On the 23d of March a violent ſtorm of wind, hail, and rain, ſprung the main-yard of the Centurion, and the foot rope of the main-ſail breaking, the main-ſail itſelf ſplit inſtantly to rags, and in ſpite of all their endeavours to ſave it, the much greater part of it was blown over-board. This obliged the commodore to make a ſignal for the ſquadron to bring to, and the ſtorm flatning to a calm, endeavours were inſtantly uſed to repair the damage. They again got under ſail; but in 24 hours were attacked by another ſtorm, in which the Centurion had her main-ſhrouds and mizen-ſhrouds broke. After this the weather for two or three days grew leſs tempeſtuous than uſual; but there was ſo thick a fog that the Centurion was obliged to fire a gun almoſt every half hour to keep the ſquadron together.

On the 31ſt the people were alarmed by a gun fired from the Glouceſter, and a ſignal made to ſpeak with the commodore, on which the Centurion bearing down to her, it was found that the main-yard was broke in the ſlings. This was conſidered as a great misfortune, ſince it would detain them the longer in that inhoſpitable climate; therefore, to ſhorten this delay as much as poſſible,

ble, the commodore ordered ſeveral carpenters to be put on board the Glouceſter from the other ſhips, that the damage might be repaired with the utmoſt expedition. And the captain of the Tryal at the ſame time complaining that his pumps were bad, and that the ſloop made ſo much water that he was ſcarce able to keep her free, the commodore ordered him a pump ready fitted for his own ſhip. The next day the ſky looked dark and gloomy, and the wind beginning to freſhen and blow in ſqualls indicated the approach of a ſevere tempeſt; and accordingly on the 3d of April, there aroſe a ſtorm, which, from its violence and continuation, exceeded all they had hitherto encountered. The Centurion ſoon received a furious ſhock from a ſea, which breaking over the larboard quarter, ſtove in her quarter gallery, and ruſhed into the ſhip like a deluge; at the ſame time the maſts and rigging were much damaged. This dreadful ſtorm laſted three days. On the 8th ſeveral guns were fired, as ſignals of diſtreſs, when the commodore making a ſignal for the ſquadron to bring to, it was ſoon perceived that the Wager had loſt her mizen-maſt, and main-top-ſail yard, and the next day the Anna Pink had her fore-ſtay and the gammon of her bow-ſprit broke, and was in danger of having all her maſts come by the board.

They now began to flatter themſelves with hopes that their fatigues were drawing to a period, and that they ſhould ſoon arrive at a more hoſpitable climate; for towards the latter end of March, they were, according to their reckoning, near ten degrees to the weſtermoſt point of Terra del Fuego, and ever ſince had been ſtanding to the northward, with as much expedition as the turbulence of the weather would permit; but theſe deluſions

only ſerved to render their diſappointment more terrible; for on the 14th of April, the weather, which till then had been hazy, clearing up, the Anna Pink, between one and two in the morning, made a ſignal for ſeeing land right a-head. which being but two miles diſtant, they were all in the greateſt danger of running aſhore; and had the wind blown with violence from its uſual quarter, or if the moon had not ſuddenly ſhone out, every ſhip muſt have periſhed. This land, to their great amazement, appeared to be Cape Noir, though they imagined they were ten degrees more weſterly. For the currents had driven them ſo ſtrongly to the eaſtward, that when they imagined they ran down nineteen degrees weſt, they had not really advanced half that diſtance. By this diſcovery they found themſelves obliged to ſteer once more to the ſouthward, and inſtead of approaching a warmer climate, were again to combat thoſe terrible blaſts that had ſo often filled them with conſternation. To increaſe their apprehenſions, they were dreadfully enfeebled by the men falling ſick and dying apace. Three days before they loſt ſight of the Severn and Pearl; and though the ſhips were ſpread out in ſearch of them, never ſaw them more; whence it was concluded, that they had run upon this land in the night, and had periſhed. Filled with theſe deſponding thoughts, they ſtood away to the ſouth-weſt, till the 22d of April, when they were in upwards of 60 degrees of ſouth latitude, and 6 to the weſt of Cape Noir, in which run they had as favourable weather as could be expected; but on the 24th in the evening the wind increaſed to a prodigious ſtorm, and the weather being extremely thick, the four other ſhips of the ſquadron ſeparated, nor did they

they meet again till they reached Juan Fernandes, and the Centurion, during this tempeſt, had her ſails rent to pieces, and much of her rigging broke.

The ſcurvy had now for a conſiderable time made its appearance, and ſpread to ſuch an aſtoniſhing degree, that this dreadful diſeaſe carried off 43 men from on board the Centurion only in the month of April, and double that number in May, after which it was ſtill increaſing. The many forms wherein this deſtructive diſeaſe attacks the human body, are as aſtoniſhing as they are unaccountable. Its ſymptoms are inconſtant and innumerable, and ſcarcely did the complaints of any two perſons exactly reſemble each other; yet there are ſome ſymptoms more common than the reſt, ſuch as large diſcoloured ſpots ſpread over the whole body, ſwelling legs, putrid gums, extraordinary laſſitude, ſurpriſing dejection of ſpirits, ſhiverings and tremblings, with a diſpoſition to be ſeized with unaccountable terrors on the ſlighteſt accidents; and whatever damped the hopes of the men, added new vigour to the diſtemper, killed thoſe who were in the laſt ſtages of it, and confined thoſe to their hammocks who were before capable of ſome kind of duty. It often produced the jaundice, pleuriſies, rheumatic pains, and putrid fevers; but what is moſt extraordinary, it forced open the ſcars of wounds which had been many years healed, and diſſolved the callous of a broken bone, which had been compleatly formed for a long time, ſo that the fracture ſeemed as if it had never been conſolidated. Many of the people, though confined to their hammocks, were chearful, talked in a loud, ſtrong tone of voice, and eat and drank heartily; but on being moved in their hammocks from one part of

the ſhip to another, immediately expired. Others truſting in their ſeeming ſtrength, reſolved to get out of their hammocks, but died before they could reach the deck, and it was common to ſee the men drop down dead, upon a violent effort of duty.

On the 8th of May the Centurion arrived off the iſland of Socoro, which was the firſt rendezvous appointed for the ſquadron; ſhe waited there ſeveral days to no purpoſe, in which ſhe was often in danger of being driven upon the rocks; for there were ſtill ſuch prodigigious ſqualls that with the greateſt difficulty they kept clear of the ſhore. In one of theſe ſqualls, which was attended with violent claps of thunder, a ſudden flaſh darted along the decks, with an exploſion like that of ſeveral piſtols, and, as it paſſed, wounded ſeveral of the officers and men.

There would be no end in minutely deſcribing the diſaſters and terrors the people encountered on this coaſt, all which increaſed till the 22d of May, when the fury of all the ſtorms they had hitherto endured ſeemed to be united, and to have conſpired their deſtruction. Almoſt all the ſails of the Centurion were ſplit, and greateſt part of her ſtanding rigging broke, and a mountainous ſea taking her upon her ſtarboard quarter, gave her ſo prodigious a ſhock, that ſeveral of the ſhrouds broke with the jerk, and the ballaſt and ſtores were ſo ſtrangely ſhifted, that the ſhip afterwards lay on her larboard ſide. By this tremendous blow, the people were thrown into the utmoſt conſternation, from the dread of immediately foundering; but the wind abating, they endeavoured all they could to mend their ſails and repair the damage, during which they were driven aſhore on

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the iſland of Chiloe; but the wind happily ſhifting to the ſouthward, they ſteered off land with only the main-ſail; the maſter, and the reverend Mr. Wa ter, the commodore's chaplain, undertaking the management of the helm, while the reſt were employed in ſecuring the maſts and bending the ſails.

This was the laſt ſtormy weather they met with in that climate; for after a fortnight's cruize, without ſeeing any of the other ſhips. the Centurion that day got clear of the land, and the weather being pretty moderate, bore away for Juan Fernandes, which was thought to afford the only chance the men had left to avoid periſhing at ſea; for though the harbour of Baldivia was the next appointed rendezvous, it was no longer thought on, the ſole hope now left being that of ſaving the ſhip, and the few remaining lives on board. Time being now extremely precious, as four, five, and ſix of the Centurion's men died in a day, they ſtood directly for that iſland; but not finding it in the poſition the charts had taught them to expect it in, they began to apprehend their being too far to the weſtward; and though the commodore himſelf was firmly perſuaded that he ſaw it on the morning of the 28th, his officers, ſuppoſing it to be only a cloud, a ſuppoſition which the hazineſs of the weather made probable, it was, on a conſultation, reſolved to ſtand to the eaſtward in the parallel of the iſland; but on the 30th of May, having a view of the continent of Chili, they had the mortification to find they had needleſly altered their courſe, when they were, in probability, juſt upon the point of making the iſland. Thoſe who remained alive, were entirely diſpirited by this new diſappointment, and this general dejection prevailing, added to

the virulence of the diſeaſe, and the mortality increaſed, to a moſt dreadful degree.

To theſe calamities were added the painful circumſtance, that on their ſtanding to weſtward in queſt of the iſland, they were ſo delayed by calms and contrary wind, that it coſt them nine days to regain the weſting which they had run down in two, when they ſtood to the weſtward. In this deſponding condition, with great ſcarcity of water, and the crew ſo diſeaſed, that there was not above ten foremaſt men in a watch capable of doing duty, and even ſome of theſe lame, they ſaw the long-wiſhed-for iſland of Juan Fernandes, on the 9th of June, loſing by this laſt miſtake between 70 and 80 men, who would doubtleſs have been ſaved, had they made the iſland when the Commodore diſcovered it on the 28th of May; but notwithſtanding this it will hereafter appear, that this miſtake was providentially the means of the preſervation of all who ſurvived this ſeeming misfortune.

CHAP. III.

A deſcription of the iſland of Juan Fernandes, with the meaſures purſued by Mr. Anſon in that iſland. The arrival of the Glouceſter and Anna Pink; and a narrative of the diſtreſſes the former had endured, and what happened to the latter while at anchor near the iſland of Inchin.

THo' the Centurion again diſcovered the iſland of Juan Fernandes on the 9th of June at day-break, yet her people were all that day and the next night in getting in with the land; and in the middle watch the debility

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of the people was ſo great, that the lieutenant could only muſter two quarter maſters and ſix foremaſt men, ſo that had it not been for the officers, ſervants, and boys, it might have been impoſſible to have reached the iſland after they had got ſight of it: to this wretched condition was the Centurion, a ſixty gun ſhip reduced, which three months before had paſt the ſtraits le Mair, with between 4 and 500 men, almoſt all of whom were in health and full vigour *.

On the tenth in the afternoon they got under the lee of the iſland: they ranged along it at about two miles diſtance, and being now near the ſhore, obſerved, that the country, which at a diſtance ſeemed to be extremely mountainous, ragged and irregular, aſſumed a very different appearance. The broken craggy precipices were in moſt places covered with woods, and between them appeared the fineſt valleys, cloathed with the moſt beautiful verdure, and watered with many ſtreams and caſcades. Such a ſcene, ſo beautifully diverſified, muſt have been delightful to an indifferent ſpectator; but in the diſtreſſed condition of the Centurion's men, who were in a manner languiſhing for the land, and its vegetable productions, a ſituation of mind which always attends the ſcurvy, it is not to be conceived with what tranſport and eagerneſs they viewed the ſhore, how impatiently they longed for the greens, the freſh water, and

* To avoid the dreadful diſtreſſes indured by this ſquadron in this long and dangerous paſſage, Mr. Walter adviſes, all ſhips who paſs to the South Sea, not to paſs ſtraits le Mair, but to run to the ſouth, as far as the latitude 61 or 62 degrees, and never to attempt this paſſage, but in the height of ſummer, that is in the months of December and January.

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the other refreſhments then in ſight; and Mr. Walter obſerves, "That thoſe only who have endured a long "ſeries of thirſt, and can readily recal the deſire and a-"gitation which the ideas alone of ſprings and brooks "have at that time raiſed in them, can judge of the e-"motion with which they eyed a large caſcade of the "moſt tranſparent water, which poured itſelf from a "rock near one hundred feet high into the ſea at a "ſmall diſtance from the ſhip." Thoſe who had been long confined to their hammocks now exerted all the ſtrength they had left in crawling up to the deck to feaſt their eyes with the reviving proſpect. They thus coaſted along the ſhore contemplating the inchanting landſkip, which improved as they advanced; but the night cloſed upon them, before they had diſcovered a proper bay. At four the next morning, the third lieutenant was diſpatched with the cutter to diſcover the bay they ſought for, and at noon he returned with the boat loaden with ſeals and graſs; for the boat's crew did not ſtay to ſearch for better vegetables, as they knew that even graſs would prove a dainty, and indeed it was ſoon eagerly devoured. As for the ſeals they were at this inſtant rendered leſs valuable by the people on board having taken, during the boat's abſence, a great quantity of excellent fiſh.

The cutter had diſcovered the bay where they intended to anchor, and the weather proving favourable, the next morning they endeavoured to weigh, which with great difficulty they performed, by obliging even the ſick who were ſcarce able to ſtand, to lend their aſſiſtance, and at length, by making uſe of their utmoſt efforts, they got into the bay in fifty-ſix fathom water.

The Centurion had not long got her new birth, when a ſail

a ſail was diſcovered, which, on its nearer approach, was found to be the Tryal ſloop. The Commodore immediately ſent ſome of his hands on board her, by whoſe aſſiſtance ſhe was brought to an anchor in the bay, when captain Saunders the commander waiting on Mr. Anſon, informed him that he had buried 34 of his men out of his ſmall compliment, and thoſe that remained were ſo afflicted with the ſcurvy, that only himſelf, his lieutenant, and three of his men were able to ſtand by the ſails, and that on the 9th of May he had fallen in with the Anna Pink, with whom he had kept company four days, when they were parted in a hard gale of wind.

The Commodore's principal attention was now employed in ſending materials on ſhore to raiſe tents for the reception of the ſick, who died faſt on board, the diſtemper being doubtleſs conſiderably augmented by the ſtench and filthineſs in which they lay, for few could be ſpared to look after them, which rendered the ſhip extremely loathſome between decks. But notwithſtanding the eager deſire of all to be on ſhore, they had not hands enough to prepare the tents before the 16th, but on that and the two following days, they were all landed, amounting to 167 perſons, beſides 12 or 14 who died in the boats, on being expoſed to the freſh air. The greateſt part of the ſick were obliged to be carried out of the ſhip in their hammocks, and afterwards to be conveyed in the ſame manner from the water ſide over a ſtony beach to their tents. This being a work of conſiderable fatigue to the few who were healthy, the Commodore had the humanity, not only to aſſiſt with his own labour, but obliged all his officers without diſtinction to give a helping hand.

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It was near twenty days after their landing, before the mortality was tolerably ceaſed, and for the firſt ten or twelve days they ſeldom buried leſs than ſix each day, and many who ſurvived recovered by ſlow degrees. However, thoſe who on their firſt getting aſhore were well enough to creep out of their tents and crawl about, ſoon recovered their health and ſtrength.

Mr. Anſon was particularly induſtrious in directing the roads and coaſts to be ſurveyed, and ſuch obſervations to be made as might be of uſe to any Britiſh veſſel that ſhould hereafter be ſent into thoſe ſeas. The iſland of Juan Fernandes †, is ſaid to have received its name from a Spaniard, who formerly procured a grant of it; but after reſiding there ſome time abandoned it. Its greateſt length is between 12 and 15 miles, and its greateſt breadth leſs than ſix. The northern part of the iſland is compoſed of high craggy rocks, many of which are inacceſſible, though they are generally covered with trees; but the ſoil is ſo looſe and ſhallow, that the largeſt trees are eaſily overturned, which occaſioned the death of one of the ſailors, who being upon the hills in ſearch of goats, catching hold of a tree upon a declivity to aſſiſt him in his aſcent, but it giving way he immediately rolled down, and though in his fall he faſtened on another tree of a conſiderable ſize, yet that too unfortunately giving way, he fell among the rocks, and was daſhed to pieces.

The trees which compoſe the woods on this ſide of the iſland are moſtly aromatics of different ſorts, none of

† This iſland, according to Mr. Anſon's accurate obſervations, lies in 33°. 40′. ſouth latitude, and is 100 leagues from the continent of Chili.

which

which are large enough to afford any conſiderable timber, except the myrtle, whoſe top is circular, and appears as regular and uniform as if clipt by art, and on its bark grows an excreſſence reſembling moſs, which has the taſte and ſmell of garlic, inſtead of which it was uſed by the people of the Centurion; but even this tree will not cut to a greater length than 40 feet. The pimento and cabbage tree alſo grow here, but in no great plenty. There were beſides a great variety of different plants, amongſt which were all the vegetables that are eſteemed peculiarly adapted to the cure of the ſcurvy; for they found great quantities of excellent wild ſorrel, purſlain, water creſſes, turnips, and Sicilian radiſhes. Mr. Anſon for the better accommodation of his countrymen, who ſhould afterwards touch there, ſowed lettuce, carrots, and other garden plants, and ſet in the woods a great variety of plumb, apricot, and peach ſtones, which have ſince thriven to a remarkable degree.

It is obſervable, that the hills in ſome part of this iſland reſemble the mountains of Chili, where gold is found; and in ſome places there are hills of a peculiar kind of red earth, more beautiful than vermillion, which upon examination might perhaps prove a very uſeful and valuable commodity.

The woods which cover the moſt of the ſteepeſt hills, are ſo free from buſhes and underwood, as to afford an eaſy paſſage through every part of them; and in the northern part of the iſland the irregularities of the hills and precipices, traced out a variety of the moſt romantic valleys, moſt of which have a ſtream of the cleareſt water, that run through them, after its having fallen in caſcades from rock to rock, and in ſome particular ſpots in

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theſe valleys, the loftineſs of the overhanging rocks, the frequent falls of the neighbouring ſtreams, with the ſhade and fragrance of the contiguous woods, preſented ſcenes of the utmoſt elegance and dignity. And here the ſimple productions of unaſſiſted nature, may be ſaid to excell all the fictitious deſcriptions of the warmeſt imagination.

To conclude this deſcription of the face of this beautiful iſland, we ſhall give a view of the ſpot where the Commodore pitched his tent, and reſided during his ſtay. The place he choſe, was a ſmall lawn that had an eaſy aſcent, and lay at the diſtance of about half a mile from the ſea. His tent fronted a large avenue, cut through the woods, which ſloping with a gentle deſcent to the water, afforded a proſpect of the bay and the ſhips at anchor. The lawn was ſcreened behind by a wood of tall myrtles, ſweeping round it in a ſemicircular form; the ſlope on which the wood ſtood, roſe with a ſteeper aſcent than the lawn; while the hills and precipices within land towered up conſiderably above the tops of the trees, and heightned the grandeur of the view; beſides two ſtreams of cryſtal water ran on the right and left of the tent, within the diſtance of 100 yards, and compleated the ſymmetry of the whole, by their being ſhaded with the trees which on either ſide ſkirted the lawn.

The prodigious number of goats former writers mention to have been found upon the iſland have been greatly diminiſhed, by the dogs ſet on ſhore by the Spaniards, to deprive the buccaniers and privateers of the advantages they reaped from their numbers, which ſupplied them with plenty of proviſions; but it is remarkable,

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that the Centurion's men found ſeveral of theſe of a moſt venerable aſpect, which, from having their ears ſlit, they naturally ſuppoſed had belonged to Mr. Selkirk a Scotſman, who had been left upon this iſland, about 32 years before their arrival, and who often catching more goats than he wanted, ſometimes marked their ears, and let them go. The large dogs, already mentioned, have deſtroyed all the goats in the acceſſible parts of the country, while the few that remain, live among the craggs and precipices, are divided into ſeparate herds, inhabit diſtinct faſtneſſes, and never mingle with each other. Mr. Walter and others were witneſſes of a ſingular diſpute betwixt a herd of theſe animals, and a number of dogs. They were going in a boat into the eaſtern bay, when perceiving ſome dogs running, they were willing to diſcover their game; upon which, lying upon their oars to watch them, they ſaw them take to a hill, upon the ridge of which they obſerved a herd of goats drawn up for their reception. The maſter of the herd had poſted himſelf fronting the enemy, in a very narrow paſs, ſkirted on each ſide with precipices, while the reſt of the goats were all behind him, where the ground was more open. As this ſpot was inacceſſible by any other paſs, the dogs ran up the hill with great alacrity; but on their coming within 20 yards of him, became ſenſible of their danger; for the ſame gentleman obſerves that he would infallibly have driven them down the precipices. The dogs therefore quietly laid themſelves down, and gave over the chace. Theſe dogs are extremely numerous, and being able to catch but few of the goats, they principally live upon young ſeals.

As the ſailors were ſeldom able to kill above one goat

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in a day, and grew tired of fiſh, they at laſt condeſcended to eat ſeals, which, by degrees, they became fond of, and gave their fleſh the name of lamb.

There is another amphibious animal to be met with in the iſland, which as well as the ſeals, are very numerous; that is the ſea-lion, which reſembles the ſeal, though it is much larger, and was eat by the ſhip's company under the denomination of beef. When arrived at their full growth they are from twelve to twenty feet in length, and from eight to fifteen in circumference, and are ſo extremely fat, that on cutting through the ſkin, which is about an inch in thickneſs at leaſt, a foot of fat is found before either the lean or the bones can be ſeen, ſo that the fat of the largeſt of them frequently yielded a butt of oil. Their ſkins are covered with ſhort hair of a light dun colour; but their tails and feet, which at ſea ſerve them for fins, are almoſt black. Their feet are divided like fingers, and are joined together like a web. Theſe animals in ſome degree reſemble an overgrown ſeal; but the males have a large trunk or ſnout, that hangs down five or ſix inches below the end of the upper jaw, which the females have not, and this renders them eaſily diſtinguiſhed; beſides the males are of a much larger ſize.

The largeſt ſea-lion was the maſter of the flock, and from the number of females he kept to himſelf, and his driving off the males, was ſtiled by the ſeamen the baſhaw. Theſe amphibious animals continue at ſea all the ſummer, and come on ſhore the beginning of winter, where they reſide during that whole ſeaſon, feeding on the graſs and verdure that grows near the banks of the freſh water ſtream; and when they are not employed in feeding, ſleep in herds in the moſt miery places. In this

interval

interval they engender and bring forth their young, and have generally two at a birth, of about the ſize of a full grown ſeal, which they ſuckle with their milk. As they are of a very lethargic diſpoſition, and are not eaſily awakened, it is obſerved that each herd places ſome of their males at a diſtance in the manner of ſentinels, who always give the alarm, whenever any attempt is made, either to moleſt or approach them, by making a loud grunting noiſe like a hog, or ſnorting like a horſe in full vigour. The males had often furious battles with each other, chiefly about the females, and the baſhaw, juſt mentioned, who was commonly ſurrounded by his females, to which no other male dared to approach, had acquired that diſtinguiſhed pre-eminence by many bloody conteſts, as was evident from the numerous ſcars viſible in all parts of his body. The ſailors killed many of them for food, particularly for their tongues and hearts, which were much admired, and thought preferable to thoſe of bullocks. There was no difficulty in killing them, ſince they were incapable of either reſiſting or eſcaping, their motion being more unwieldy than can be conceived; their blubber, all the time they are moving, is agitated in large waves under the ſkin; and it is remarkable, that they are ſo full of blood, that on their being deeply wounded in a dozen places, there will inſtantly guſh out as many fountains of blood, ſpouting to a conſiderable diſtance. To try what quantity of blood they contained, the men ſhot one firſt, and then cut his throat, and meaſuring the blood that came from it, found, that beſides what remained in the veſſels, which was no doubt conſiderable, they got at leaſt two hogſheads. But tho' theſe unwieldy creatures are ſo eaſily killed, they are ca-

pable of doing much miſchief; for a ſailor being careleſly employed in ſkinning a young ſea-lion, the female, from whom he had taken it, approached him unperceived, and getting his head in her mouth ſcored his ſkull in notches with her teeth, by which he was ſo deſperately wounded, that though all poſſible care was taken to preſerve his life, he died a few days after.

The above are the principal animals that were found in this iſland. They ſaw but few birds, which were chiefly hawks, owls, humming-birds, and black-birds; and but few of the other animals mentioned by former writers, and therefore ſuppoſed them deſtroyed by the dogs; however, the rats are ſtill very numerous and troubleſome.

The moſt delicious repaſts they found in this iſland were afforded by the fiſh, with which the bay was plentifully ſtored. There they found cod of a prodigious ſize, cavaliers, gropers, large beeams, maids, congers of a peculiar kind; and what was moſt eſteemed, a black fiſh, that in ſhape reſembled a carp, and which ſome called a chimney-ſweeper: theſe fiſh were ſo plentiful, that a boat with two or three hooks and lines ſometimes returned loaded with fiſh in two or three hours time. They, however, were frequently interrupted by great numbers of dog-fiſh and large ſharks, which attended the boats, and prevented their ſport. There were here alſo the ſea-cray-fiſh, which commonly weighed eight or nine pounds; theſe were of a moſt excellent taſte, and were in prodigious numbers near the water's edge.

After their being ſome time in the iſland, and ſeeing no other ſhips appear, the commodore began to be under apprehenſions, that they were loſt, and to deſpair of

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ever ſeeing them again; but on the 21ſt of June, ſome of the men, from an eminence on ſhore, diſcerned a ſhip to the leeward that had no ſail aboard, except her courſes and main-top-ſail; but ſoon after, the weather growing thick and hazy, ſhe diſappeared for ſome days, when it was feared ſhe had loſt ſight of the iſland, and that her crew were ſo weakened by ſickneſs as to be unable to ply to the windward. However, on the 26th a ſail was again ſeen, which was thought to be the ſame ſhip, and ſoon after approached ſo near, that they could diſtinguiſh her to be the Glouceſter. The commodore not doubting her to be in diſtreſs, ordered his boat to her aſſiſtance, laden with freſh water, fiſh, and vegetables. The commodore's apprehenſions were but too well founded; never was a crew in a more diſtreſſed ſituation; already had they thrown over-board two thirds of their complement, and ſcarce any were left alive capable of doing duty, except the officers and their ſervants; their allowance for a conſiderable time had been only a pint of water to each man for 24 hours, and yet they had ſo little left, that had it not been for this ſupply, they muſt ſoon have died of thirſt. Though the ſhip was within three miles of the bay, the winds and currents being contrary, ſhe found it impoſſible to reach it. She however the next day continued in the offing, but having no chance of coming to an anchor, unleſs the wind and current ſhifted, the commodore ſent the Tryal's boat, with a further ſupply of water and other refreſhments. Mr. Mitchel, the captain of the Glouceſter, was under the neceſſity of detaining both this boat, and that ſent the preceding day; for he had no longer ſtrength ſufficient to navigate the ſhip without the help of their crews. In

this dreadful tantalizing ſituation, the Glouceſter continued for near a fortnight, without being able to fetch the road, though frequently attempting it, and ſometimes ſeeming as if ſhe would gain it. But on the 9th of July, ſhe was obſerved ſtretching away at a conſiderable diſtance to the eaſtward, which it was ſuppoſed was with a deſign to get to the ſouthward of the iſland; but as they ſoon loſt ſight of her, and ſhe did not appear for near a week, they were deeply concerned, being ſenſible that ſhe muſt be again in dreadful diſtreſs for want of water. However, after watching for her with great impatience, ſhe was again diſcovered on the 16th, endeavouring to come round the eaſtern point of the iſland; but the wind ſtill blowing directly from the bay hindered her from getting nearer than within four leagues of the land, when captain Mitchel making ſignals of diſtreſs, the long boat was ſent to him with plenty of water and other refreſhments; and the boat being not to be ſpared, the Commodore gave the cockſwain poſitive orders to return immediately; but the next day, the weather being ſtormy, and the boat not appearing, it was apprehended that it was loſt, which would have been an irretrievable misfortune to all on ſhore; but from this anxiety they were the third day after relieved by the joyful ſight of the long boat, on which the cutter was immediately ſent to her aſſiſtance, who in a few hours towed her into the harbour. It was found that the crew of the long boat had taken in ſix of the Glouceſter's ſick men to bring them on ſhore, but two of them had died in the boat. The Commodore was informed that the Glouceſter had ſcarcely a man in health on board, except thoſe he had ſent her; that numbers of the ſick died dai-

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ly, and that had it not been for the refreſhments he had ſent, both the healthy and the diſeaſed muſt have periſhed. Theſe calamities were the more terrifying, as they ſeemed without remedy, for this diſtreſſed veſſel had already ſpent a month in endeavouring to fetch the bay, and was now no farther advanced than at the firſt moment ſhe made the iſland, and the people on board had loſt all their hopes of ever ſucceeding in it, from the many experiments they had made of its difficulty. But alas! the ſame day their ſituation became more dreadful than ever; for after ſhe had received the laſt ſupply of refreſhments, thoſe on ſhore once more loſt ſight of her, and all in general deſpaired of her ever coming to an anchor. Thus were the unhappy people in this veſſel bandied about within a few leagues of the deſired harbour, while the neighbourhood of the place, and the view of every thing that could put an end to the calamities they laboured under, aggravated their diſtreſs; but they were at laſt delivered from this moſt dreadful ſituation, when it was leaſt expected from thoſe on ſhore, who, after loſing ſight of her ſeveral days, were agreeably ſurprized, on the 23d of July in the morning, to ſee her with a flowing ſail open the north-weſt point of the bay, when the Commodore diſpatching all his boats to her aſſiſtance, ſhe within an hour's time after her being firſt perceived, was ſafe at anchor with the Centurion.

On their coming to an anchor, the Commodore firſt ordered her to be aſſiſted in mooring, and then had her ſick ſent on ſhore. She had buried above three fourths of her crew, and the ſick were reduced by their dying to leſs than fourſcore, the greateſt part of whom it was feared would be loſt; but whether thoſe that were far ad-

vanced in the diſtemper were all dead, or that the greens, the freſh proviſions and water ſent on board had prepared thoſe that remained for a ſpeedy recovery, very few of them died on ſhore, and the ſick in general were reſtored to health in a much ſhorter time than thoſe of the Centurion had been on their firſt landing in the iſland.

We ſhall now return to the tranſactions on ſhore, during the Glouceſter's many ineffectual attempts to reach the iſland. Their firſt employment, after landing the ſick from the Centurion, and cleanſing the ſhip, was filling the water, which appeared eſſentially neceſſary to their ſecurity, as they had reaſon to apprehend that ſuch accidents might intervene, as would oblige them to leave the iſland at a very ſhort warning; for on their firſt landing, they diſcovered ſome appearances on ſhore, that gave them room to believe that ſome Spaniſh cruiſers had but juſt left the iſland at their arrival, and might probably return again, either for a recruit of water, or in ſearch of the ſquadron; for the Commodore could not doubt but their ſole buſineſs at ſea was to intercept him, and knew that, in their opinion, this iſland was the moſt probable place to find him in. The ſailors had ſeen on ſhore ſeveral pieces of the earthen jars uſed in thoſe ſeas for water and other liquids, and theſe ſeemed freſh broken. There were many heaps of aſhes, and near them fiſh bones, pieces of fiſh, and even whole fiſhes ſcattered about, which, as they were but juſt beginning to decay, was a proof that they had not been long out of the water, and that ſhips had been there but a ſhort time before their arrival. As the Spaniſh merchant-men are inſtructed to avoid the iſland, it was concluded, that thoſe who had touched here were ſhips of force; and being

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ignorant what ſtrength might have been fitted out at Callao, they could not fail of being under ſome concern for their own ſafety, while they were in ſo wretched and enfeebled a condition.

While theſe works were carrying on, the Commodore ordered a large copper oven to be ſet up on ſhore, near the tents of the ſick, in which bread was baked every day for the ſhip's company, it being thought that new bread, added to greens and freſh fiſh, would greatly contribute to the ſpeedy recovery of the ſick.

In the beginning of July, ſome of the men being pretty well recovered, the ſtrongeſt of them were ordered to cut down trees, and ſplit them into billets, while others, who were not ſtrong enough for this employment, undertook to carry the billets, by one at a time to the water ſide. This ſome of them performed by the help of crutches, while others ſupported themſelves with a ſingle ſtick.

The Commodore then ordered the forge on ſhore, and employed the ſmiths, who were but juſt able to work, in mending the chain-plates, and all the other broken and decayed iron work. They alſo began to repair the rigging; but as they had not junk enough to make ſpun-yarn, they waited for the arrival of the Glouceſter, who had a great quantity of junk on board. But that the ſhips might be refitted as ſoon as poſſible, a large tent was erected on the beach for the ſail-makers, in which they were employed in repairing the old ſails and making new ones. Theſe, with their attendance upon the ſick, were their principal employments till the Glouceſter's arrival.

Captain Mitchel on his landing waited on the Commo-

dore, and told him, that in his laſt abſence, he had been forced by the winds as far as Maſa-Fuero, a ſmall iſland about 22 leagues to the weſt of Juan Fernandes, and obſerving ſeveral ſtreams, he had endeavoured to ſend his boat on ſhore for water, but the wind blew ſo ſtrong on the ſhore, and occaſioned ſuch a ſurf, that it was impoſſible to land: but that his people, however, returned with a boat loaded with fiſh. Though the iſland had been repreſented by former navigators as a barren rock, captain Mitchel aſſured the Commodore, that it was almoſt every where covered with trees and verdure; and it being near four miles in length, he thought it not improbable but it might have ſome ſmall bay that might afford ſufficient ſhelter for any ſhip deſirous of refreſhing at that iſland.

This deſcription of Maſa-Fuero gave riſe to a conjecture, that as four ſhips of the ſquadron were miſſing, ſome of them might poſſibly have fallen in with that iſland, and have miſtaken it for the true place of rendezvous; a conjecture that was the more plauſible, as they had no draught of either iſland that could be relied on; and therefore the Commodore reſolved, as ſoon as the Tryal ſloop could be fitted for the ſea, to ſend her thither, in order to examine all its bays and creeks, to be ſatisfied whether any of the ſhips that were miſſing were there or not; and accordingly on the 5th of Auguſt ſhe was ſent upon that expedition. About the middle of Auguſt the Centurion's men being pretty well recovered, were allowed to leave their ſick tents, and to erect ſeparate huts for themſelves, which it was thought would render them much cleanlier, and conſequently contribute to the recovery of their ſtrength; but particular orders

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were at the ſame time given, that on the ſhip's firing a gun, they ſhould immediately repair to the water ſide.

They were now employed on ſhore in cutting wood, procuring refreſhments, and making oil from the blubber of the ſea-lions, which was uſed for burning in lamps, or when mixed with pitch, to pay the ſhip's ſides; it was alſo worked up with wood aſhes to ſupply the uſe of tallow; and there being two Newfoundland fiſhermen in the Centurion, the Commodore ordered them to lay in a large quantity of ſalted cod for ſea ſtore.

It has been already mentioned, that a copper oven was ſet up to bake bread for the ſick; but the greateſt part of the flour was on board the victualler the Anna Pink; and as that veſſel had fallen in with the Tryal ſloop on the 9th of May, her arrival at the iſland was daily expected; but hearing no news of her, ſhe was given over for loſt, and the Commodore ordered all the ſhips to a ſhort allowance of bread; but on the 16th of Auguſt, a ſail was obſerved to the north, upon which the Centurion immediately fired a gun, to call off the people from ſhore, who readily obeyed the ſummons, by repairing to the beach. Being now prepared for the reception of this ſhip, whether friend or enemy, they had ſeveral opinions about her, ſome imagining her to be the Tryal ſloop, on her return from her cruiſe; but it was ſoon obſerved that ſhe had three maſts, when ſome conjectured her to be the Severn, others the Pearl, and ſeveral thought ſhe did not belong to the ſquadron; but in the afternoon ſhe was diſcovered to be the victualler, the Anna Pink, and had the good fortune to come to an anchor in the bay at five in the afternoon. Her arrival filled the people with

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extraordinary joy, and each ſhip's company was immediately reſtored to their full allowance of bread.

Every body on ſhore were ſurpriſed at ſeeing that the crew of the Anna Pink worked that veſſel with little appearance of debility or diſtreſs; but on her coming to an anchor, they were informed that ſhe had been in harbour ſince the middle of May, which was near a month before the Centurion arrived at Juan Fernandes; ſo that the ſufferings of her men fell greatly ſhort of thoſe endured by the reſt of the ſquadron. This veſſel, on the 16th of May fell in with the land in 45° 15′ ſouth latitude, at the diſtance of four leagues. On the firſt ſight of which, the captain ſtood to the ſouthward, but the fore-top-ſail ſplitting, and the wind driving the veſſel towards the ſhore, the captain was at laſt either unable to clear the land, or as others ſaid, reſolved to keep the ſea no longer, and therefore ſteered for the coaſt, in order to diſcover ſome ſhelter among the many iſlands then in ſight, and about four hours after dropped anchor off the iſland of Inchin, but neither being near enough to the ſhore, nor having a ſufficient number of hands to veer away the cable briſkly, they ſtill continued driving for two days, till they came within a mile of the land, and expected every moment to be forced on ſhore, at a place where the coaſt was ſo very high and ſteep, that they had not the leaſt proſpect of ſaving either the ſhip or cargo; and as their boats were leaky, and there was no appearance of a landing-place, the whole crew, which conſiſted of ſixteen men and boys, gave themſelves over for loſt, imagining, that if by any extraordinary accident, any of them ſhould get on ſhore, they would probably be maſſacred by the ſavages. Under theſe terrifying apprehenſions,

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they drove nearer and nearer to the rocks which formed the ſhore; but when the crew expected every moment the Pink would ſtrike, they obſerved a ſmall opening in the land, and inſtantly cutting away their two anchors, ſteered for it, and found it to be a ſmall channel betwixt an iſland and the continent, that led them into a moſt excellent harbour, which ſecured them againſt all weathers. The horrors of ſhipwreck, and immediate death, inſtantly vaniſhed, and gave place to the joyous ideas of ſecurity, repoſe, and refreſhment.

In this harbour, thus providentially diſcovered, the Pink came to an anchor, in 25 fathom water, with only a hawſer and a ſmall anchor of 300 weight. Here her people, many of whom were ill of the ſcurvy, were happily ſoon reſtored to perfect health, by the freſh proviſions, and the excellent water with which the adjacent ſhore abounded. The principal refreſhments they met with were greens, as nettle-tops and cellery, which they devoured with greedineſs; great plenty of geeſe, ſhags, and penguins, with cockles and muſcles of an extraordinary ſize, and delicious flavour. Though it was the depth of winter, the climate was not remarkably rigorous, nor were the trees, or the face of the country deſtitute of verdure. Notwithſtanding the tales of the Spaniſh hiſtorians, in relation to the barbarity of the inhabitants on that coaſt, their numbers were not ſufficient to give the leaſt jealouſy to a ſhip of any force, and they appeared to be neither of a miſchievous nor mercileſs diſpoſition. The excurſions of the crew were however generally confined to a tract of land that ſurrounded the port, where they were never out of the view of the ſhip; indeed the country in the neighbourhood was ſo covered with wood,

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and traverſed with mountains, that it appeared impracticable to penetrate it.

All the time they continued there, they ſaw but one Indian family, which entered the harbour in a periagua, about a month after their arrival. This family conſiſted of an Indian of near 40 years of age, his wife, and two children, one three years old, and the other ſtill at the breaſt. They ſeemed to have all their property with them, which was a dog and cat, a cradle, a fiſhing-net, a hatchet, a knife, ſome bark of trees, intended for the covering of a hut, a reel and ſome worſted, a flint and ſteel, and a few roots of a yellow colour, and very diſagreeable taſte, which ſerved them for bread. As ſoon as the maſter of the Pink perceived them, he ſent his yawl, who brought them on board, and being apprehenſive of their diſcovering him, if they were ſuffered to go away, he took, as he imagined, proper precautions for ſecuring them, but without any mixture of violence or ill uſage; for in the day-time, they were allowed to go where they pleaſed about the ſhip, though at night they were locked up in the fore-caſtle. As they had the ſame proviſions as the reſt of the crew, and were often indulged with brandy, of which they ſeemed extremely fond, they did not at firſt ſeem diſſatisfied with their ſituation; for the maſter, when he went a ſhooting, took the Indian on ſhore, who always ſeemed greatly delighted when the maſter killed his game, and indeed all the crew treated them with great humanity. It was however ſoon perceived, that though the woman continued chearful and eaſy, the man grew penſive and reſtleſs at his confinement. He appeared to be a perſon of good natural parts, and though unable to converſe with the people of the Pink,

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otherwiſe than by ſigns, was very curious and inquiſitive, and ſhewed great dexterity in making himſelf underſtood. But the moſt remarkable proof of his ſagacity was the manner of his eſcape; for after being eight days aboard the Pink, the ſcuttle of the forecaſtle where he and his family were every night locked, happened to be unnailed; and the following night being very dark and ſtormy, he conveyed his wife and children through the unnailed ſcuttle, and then over the ſhip's ſide into the yawl, and to prevent being purſued, cut away the long-boat, and his own periagua, which were towed a-ſtern, and immediately rowed a-ſhore. All this he conducted with ſuch ſecrecy and diligence, that though there was a watch on the quarter-deck with loaded arms, he was not diſcovered till the noiſe of his oars in the water, after he had put off from the ſhip, gave them notice of his eſcape, and then it was too late, either to prevent or purſue him. The Indian, beſides the recovery of his liberty, was in ſome degree revenged on thoſe who had confined him, both by the perplexity they were involved in, about getting their boats, which were all a-drift, and by the terror into which he threw them at his departure; for on the firſt alarm of the watch, who cried, "The Indians," the whole ſhip's crew were in the utmoſt confuſion, and imagined they were boarded by a fleet of armed periaguas. The ſagacity and reſolution ſhewn by the Indian upon this occaſion were much admired by his late maſters, who did ſo much juſtice to his merit, as to own it was a moſt gallant enterprize; and as it was ſuppoſed by ſome, that he was concealed in the woods in the neighbourhood of the port, where it was feared he might ſuffer for want of proviſions, they eaſily prevailed upon the maſter,

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to leave a quantity of ſuch food as they thought he moſt liked, in a particular place, where they imagined he would moſt probably find it. A piece of humanity which ſeemed to have anſwered the purpoſe, for on going to the place ſome time after, they found their proviſion gone, and in a manner that made them conclude that he had taken it.

The crew of the Pink being now refreſhed, and recovered from the ſcurvy, after having taken in a ſufficient quantity of wood and water, put to ſea a few days after the Indian's eſcape, and had an agreeable paſſage to the rendezvous at Juan Fernandes.

CHAP. IV.

A ſhort narrative of the loſs of the Wager, the mutiny of her crew, and the diſtreſſes it produced. The concluſion of the proceedings at Juan Fernandes; and the hiſtory of the Spaniſh ſquadron under the command of Don Joſeph Pizarro.

AS the Anna Pink had joined the Commodore at Juan Fernandes, there were now only three ſhips miſſing, the Severn, the Pearl, and the Wager ſtore-ſhip. The two firſt of which parted company off Cape Noir, and put back to the Braſils; therefore the only ſhip miſſing, that went into the South Seas, was the Wager. This ſtore-ſhip had on board cohorn mortars, a few field pieces mounted for land ſervice, pioneer's tools for the operations on ſhore, with ſeveral kinds of artillery ſtores; and as the enterprize againſt Baldivia had been reſolved on

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for the firſt undertaking of the ſquadron, captain Cheap, the commander of the Wager, was very deſirous that theſe materials might be ready before Baldivia, that if the ſquadron ſhould rendezvous there, he might not be charged with any delay or diſappointment. This was his determined reſolution when he made land on the 14th of May, in about 47 degrees of ſouth latitude, when exerting himſelf to get clear, he had the misfortune to fall down the after-ladder, and diſlocated his ſhoulder. This unhappy accident rendered him incapable of acting, when the crew not taking proper care, the Wager ſtruck on a ſunken rock, and having ſoon after bilged, grounded between two ſmall iſlands. The confuſion produced by this accident was inconceivably heightened by the rebellious diſpoſition of the crew, who imagining that the loſs of the ſhip deſtroyed the captain's ſuperiority, and put them all on an equal footing, fell to pillaging the ſhip, arming themſelves with the firſt weapons that came to hand, and threatening to murder all who ſhould oppoſe them. This frenzy was heightened by the liquors they had found on board, with which ſome of them got ſo extremely drunk, that falling down between decks, they were drowned in the water which flowed into the wreck. The captain, after having uſed his utmoſt endeavours to get the whole crew on ſhore, was, at laſt, obliged to leave the mutineers, and to follow his officers, with ſuch as ſubmitted to his authority; after which, he ſent back the boat to perſuade thoſe who had ſtaid behind, to have ſome regard to their own preſervation; but this was without ſucceſs. However, the next day proving very ſtormy, and the ſhip being in danger of parting, they were ſeized with the fear of periſhing, and wanted to get

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to land; but the boats not appearing to fetch them off ſo ſoon as they expected, they were filled with ſo unaccountable a frenzy, as to point a four pounder againſt the hut where they knew the captain dwelt, and fired two ſhot which did but juſt paſs over it; and ſo mutinous was their diſpoſition when they landed, that notwithſtanding their being on a deſolate coaſt where ſcarcely any other proviſions could be obtained, there was no poſſibility of making them husband ſuch as were ſaved out of the wreck; for there was nothing but frauds, concealments and theſts, which animated each man againſt his fellow, and produced infinite feuds and conteſts.

The captain differing in opinion from almoſt all his people on the meaſures to be purſued in the preſent exigency, was another ſource of heart-burnings and diſputes: for Mr. Cheap was reſolved, if poſſible, to fit up the boats in the beſt manner he could, and to proceed with them to the northward, ſince having above one hundred men in health, and ſome fire-arms and ammunition, which had been taken from the wreck, he did not doubt his being able to maſter any Spaniſh veſſel he ſhould find in thoſe ſeas, and hoping to meet with one in the neighbourhood of Chiloe or Baldivia, he reſolved when he had taken her, to proceed to the rendezvous at Juan Fernandes; and he farther inſiſted, that ſhould they even light on no prize, yet the boats alone would eaſily carry them thither. But this ſcheme was not at all reliſhed by the generality of his people, who could not think of proſecuting an enterprize that had hitherto proved ſo diſaſtrous. It was therefore the common reſolution to lengthen the long-boat, and with that and the other boats to ſteer to the Southward, and paſſing the

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ſtraits of Magellan to endeavour to gain the coaſts of Braſil, where they did not doubt their being well received, and procuring a paſſage to Great Britain. Though this project muſt at firſt ſight appear infinitely more hazardous and tedious than that propoſed by the captain, yet as it had the air of returning home, that circumſtance alone rendered them inattentive to all its inconveniences, and made them adhere to it with unconquerable obſtinacy; ſo that the captain himſelf, notwithſtanding he could never change his opinion, was obliged to give way to the torrent, and to ſeem to acquieſce in this reſolution, while he ſecretly endeavoured to oppoſe it; and in particular he contrived that the long-boat ſhould be lengthened to ſuch a ſize as might ſerve to carry them to Juan Fernandes, and appear incapable of ſo long a voyage as that to the coaſt of Braſil. The captain had at firſt much imbittered the people againſt him, by a ſteady oppoſition of this favourite ſcheme, and greatly increaſed their reſentment againſt him, by the following unhappy accident. One Couſins a midſhipman, who had appeared foremoſt in all the refractory proceedings of the crew, had quarrelled with moſt of the officers, who had adhered to the captain's authority, and had even treated the captain himſelf with abuſe and inſolence, and at length his turbulence and brutality, growing daily more intolerable, it was not doubted but that ſome violent meaſures were in agitation, in which he was to be the ringleader, and therefore the captain and thoſe about him conſtantly kept on their guard. One day the purſer, by the captain's order, ſtopping the allowance of a fellow who would not work, Couſins intermeddled in the affair, and groſly inſulted the purſer, who was delivering out the proviſions juſt by the

captain's tent, and was himſelf ſufficiently violent. The purſer being enraged at his ſcurrility, and perhaps picqued by former quarrels, cried out, "A mutiny," adding, "the dog has piſtols," and then raſhly fired a piſtol at Couſins. The captain on this outcry, and the report of the piſtol, inſtantly ruſhed out of his tent, and having no doubt but that it was fired by Couſins, immediately ſhot him in the head, and though he did not kill him on the ſpot, the wound proving mortal, he died about fourteen days after.

Though this incident exaſperated the people, yet it ſtruck them with awe, and rendered them more ſubmiſſive to the captain's authority; but when they had nearly compleated the long-boat, and were preparing to put to ſea, his privately traverſing their project of proceeding through the ſtraits of Magellan, and the fear of his at length engaging a party ſufficient to ruin their favourite ſcheme, made them reſolve to make uſe of the death of Couſins as a reaſon for depriving him of his command, under pretence of carrying him to England to be tried for murder. They accordingly confined him under a guard, but when they were juſt ready to put to ſea, they left him, and the few who choſe to follow his fortune, with no other veſſel but the yawl, to which the barge was afterwards added, by the people on board her being prevailed on to return back.

When the Wager was wrecked, there were near 130 perſons on board, about 30 of whom died during their ſtay, and 80 went off in the long-boat and cutter to the ſouthward, ſo that after their departure there remained with the captain only 19 perſons; which were however as many as the barge and yawl could well carry.

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It was five months after this ſhipwreck, that the long-boat weighed and ſtood to the ſouthward, giving the captain, who with lieutenant Hamilton of the land forces, and the ſurgeon, were then on the beach, three cheers at their departure. They had ſoon reaſon to repent their having engaged in this raſh and deſperate enterprize; for the veſſel was ſcarcely able to contain the number that firſt put to ſea, and their ſtock of proviſions being only what they had ſaved out of the ſhip, was extremely ſlender; the cutter, the only boat they had with them, ſoon broke away from the ſtern, and was ſtaved to pieces, ſo that when their proviſions and water failed, they had frequently no means of reaching the ſhore to obtain a freſh ſupply. The miſeries they endured were as great as can be imagined; they left about 20 of their people on ſhore at the different places they touched at; but a greater number periſhed by hunger during the courſe of this tedious voyage, ſo that only 30 out of the 80 who engaged in the enterprize, were ſo happy as to accompliſh it, and theſe arrived at Rio Grande, on the coaſt of Braſil, on the 29th of January following.

The captain, and thoſe who were left with him, on their being thus abandoned, propoſed to paſs in the barge and yawl to the northward, but unhappily the weather was ſo bad, that it was two months after the departure of the long-boat before he was able to put to ſea. The place where the Wager was caſt away, was not, as it was at firſt imagined, a part of the continent, but an iſland at ſome diſtance from the main, which afforded no other kind of proviſions but ſhell-fiſh, and a few herbs; and as the largeſt part of what they had taken from the ſhip was carried off in the long-boat, the captain and his people

were frequently in want of food, for their reſolving to preſerve what little ſea proviſions remained for their voyage.

It is to be lamented that the Wager's people had no idea, that the Anna Pink was for a conſiderable time, while they were on ſhore, ſo near them; for ſhe was at moſt not above 30 leagues diſtant, and came into their neighbourhood about the very time in which the Wager was loſt; and being a fine roomy ſhip, might eaſily have taken them all on board, and have carried them to Juan Fernandes Indeed Mr Walter ſuſpects that ſhe was much nearer than what is here eſtimated: for ſeveral perſons belonging to the Wager, at different times heard the report of a cannon, which he imagines could be no other than the evening gun fired by the Anna Pink, eſpecially as that heard at Wager's iſland was about the ſame time of the day.

The captain and his people embarked on board the barge and yawl, in order to proceed to the northward; but they had ſcarcely been an hour at ſea, when the wind began to blow ſo hard, and the ſea ran ſo high, that they were obliged to throw overboard moſt of the proviſions they had ſaved from the wreck, to avoid immediate deſtruction. However they perſiſted in their deſign, and put to ſhore as often as they could in ſearch of ſubſiſtence. But unhappily, about a fortnight after, the yawl ſunk as ſhe lay at anchor, with one of the men on board, who was drowned, when the barge, not having room ſufficient for the whole company, they were obliged to leave four mariners behind them on a deſolate ſhore. Notwithſtanding theſe diſaſters, they ſtill continued to puſh to the northward, though delayed by the

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winds and their ſearch after proviſions, till having made three unſucceſsful attempts to double a headland, which they ſuppoſed to be cape Tres Montes; they thought the difficulties of the paſſage inſurmountable and unanimouſly reſolved to return to Wager's iſland, where they arrived about the middle of February, almoſt periſhed with fatigue and hunger. However, on their return to the iſland, they unexpectedly met with a ſeaſonable relief, by finding ſeveral pieces of beef, which had been waſhed out of the wreck, and ſtill ſwam upon the water; and ſoon after two canoes of Indians landed; on board of one of them was a native of Chiloe, who ſpoke a little Spaniſh, and was induced by Mr. Elliot, the ſurgeon, who underſtood that language, to carry captain Cheap and his people to Chiloe, in conſideration of which he was to have the barge, and all that belonged to her.

Accordingly on the 6th of March, eleven perſons, to which the company were now reduced, embarked on board the barge; but after a few days voyage, ſix of them, together with an Indian, went off in this little veſſel, while the captain was on ſhore with Mr. Hamilton lieutenant of marines, Mr. Elliot the ſurgeon, and the honourable Mr. Byron and Mr. Campbell, midſhipmen. Theſe were thus left on a deſolate coaſt, without proviſions, or the means of procuring any; for their arms, ammunition, and every little convenience, of which they were maſters, were carried off in the barge.

They were now in dreadful diſtreſs, and in their own opinion, in a more miſerable ſituation, than any they had yet known; but when they had revolved in their minds, the various circumſtances of this unexpected calamity, and were perſuaded that they had not the leaſt proſpect of

relief, they perceived a canoe at a diſtance, which proved to be that of the Indian, who had undertaken to carry them to Chiloe, he and his family being on board. This honeſt Indian had a little before left captain Cheap and his people to go a fiſhing, and had committed them to the care of the other Indian, whom the ſailors had carried to ſea in the barge. When he firſt miſſed the barge and his companion, he was with difficulty perſuaded that the other Indian was not murdered; but being at laſt ſatisfied with the account that was given him, he undertook to carry them to the Spaniſh ſettlements, and to ſupply them with proviſions all the way; for which purpoſe, he got together many of his neighbours in other canoes, with whom the captain embarked, with his four companions, in the middle of March, and at laſt arrived in the beginning of June, at the iſland of Chiloe; but Mr. Elliot died in the paſſage, and the reſt were in ſuch an ill ſtate of health from their diſtreſſes and fatigues, that they were with difficulty recovered by the Spaniards, who treated them with great humanity. After ſome ſtay at Chiloe, they were ſent to Valparaiſo, and thence to St. Jago, where having continued above a year, captain Cheap and lieutenant Hamilton were, upon the news of a cartel being ſettled with Spain, permitted to return to Europe on board a French ſhip; but Mr. Campbell, who had changed his religion, while at St. Jago, choſe to go to Buenos Ayres with Pizarro, and his officers, with whom he afterwards went to Spain, and from thence returned to England.

To return from this digreſſion. The Tryal ſloop that had been ſent to the iſland of Maſa-Fuero, returned to Juan Fernandes, about a week after the arrival of

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the Anna Pink, having ſailed round the iſland, without ſeeing any of the ſhips that were miſſing. This iſland, which the Spaniards ſtile the leſſer Juan Fernandes, is a much larger and better ſpot than has been generally repreſented, former writers having deſcribed it as a ſmall barren rock deſtitute of wood and water, and intirely inacceſſible; but it was found covered with trees, and with ſeveral fine falls of water pouring down its ſides into the ſea. It had alſo on the north-ſide a place where a ſhip might come to an anchor, but it would have been expoſed to all the winds, except the ſouth. It abounds with ſea-lions and ſeals, and particularly with goats, who not being uſed to be diſturbed, were unapprehenſive of danger, till they had been frequently fired at; and as the Spaniards have not thought the iſland conſiderable enough to be frequented by their enemies, they have not deſtroyed the proviſions upon it by ſetting dogs on the ſhore.

Upon unloading the Anna Pink, which took up the latter part of the month of Auguſt, the Commodore had the mortification to find, that great part of the proviſions were ſpoiled by the ſea-water, and that veſſel being ſurveyed by the carpenters, was judged unfit for ſervice; therefore upon a petition from Mr. Gerard her maſter, to Mr. Anſon, in behalf of her owners, he purchaſed her with all her furniture for 300*l.* and her crew together with the maſter, were ſent on board the Glouceſter. While all the remaining crew, now to be diſtributed among the three ſhips, amounting to no more than 335 men and boys, which was far from being ſufficient for manning the Centurion alone.

As the ſeaſon for navigating thoſe ſeas drew near, they

exerted themſelves in getting the ſhips ready. On the 8th of September about 11 in the morning, they diſcovered a ſail, which approached towards the iſland, and gave the Commodore hopes that ſhe was one of his ſquadron: but upon her ſteering afterwards to the eaſtward, it was concluded ſhe muſt be a Spaniard, when the Centurion being in the greateſt forwardneſs, made after her, as faſt as poſſible; but night coming on, they loſt ſight of her, and the next morning, tho' it was extremely clear, had the mortification to find, that ſhe could not be diſcovered from the maſt head. However, they reſolved not to give over the ſearch, but having continued cruizing all that day and the next, they reſolved to return to Juan Fernandes. But on the 12th, about three in the morning a briſk gale ſpringing up at ſouth-weſt, obliged them to lie upon a north-weſt tack, which brought them, at break of day within ſight of a ſail, at about five leagues diſtance, but not the ſame they had ſeen before. The crew of the Centurion immediately crouded all their ſails She at firſt bore down upon them, ſhewed Spaniſh colours, and made a ſignal as to her conſort, but obſerving that her ſignal was not anſwered, inſtantly ſtood to the ſouthward. As ſhe appeared to be a large ſhip, that had miſtaken the Centurion for her conſort, ſhe was ſuppoſed to be a man of war of Pizarro's ſquadron, which induced the Commodore to order all the officer's cabbins to be knocked down, and thrown over-board, with ſeveral caſks of water, and proviſions that ſtood between the guns; but upon a nearer approach ſhe appeared to be a merchantman, without a ſingle tire of guns, and ſurrendered at the fire of only four ſhot. Mr. Saumerez the Commodore's firſt lieutenant, was ordered to take poſſeſſion of the prize, and to ſend the officers and

paſſengers, and afterwards all the other priſoners on board the Centurion. This ſhip was called Nueſtra Senora del Monte Carmelo, and her cargo conſiſted chiefly of ſugar, great quantities of cloth, ſome cotton and tobacco; but what was more valuable than all the reſt, was ſome trunks of wrought plate, and 23 ſerons of dollars, each weighing upwards of 200 pounds averdupois; ſhe was 450 ton burden, and was bound to the port of Valparaiſo, in the kingdom of Chili.

From the information of the priſoners on board, and the letters and papers which fell into the Commodore's hands, on the taking of this ſhip, they learned with certainty the force and deſtination of admiral Pizarro's ſquadron, which cruiſed off the Madeiras at their arrival there, and afterwards chaſed the Pearl in her paſſage to St. Julian, with the fate of that ſquadron, the particulars of which were very remarkable, and are as follows.

The ſquadron under the command of Don Joſeph Pizarro, was compoſed of the Aſia of 66 guns, and 700 men, which was the admiral's ſhip, the Guipuſcoa of 74 guns and 700 men, the Hermoine of 54 guns and 500 men, the Eſperanza of 50 guns and 450 men, the St. Eſtevan of 40 guns and 350 men, and a Patache of 20 guns. Beſides their full compliment of ſailors and mariners, they had on board an old Spaniſh regiment of foot, to reinforce the garriſons in the South-Seas. This fleet ſailed from Spain with only four months proviſions on board; having cruized for ſome days to the leeward of the Madeiras, ſteered for the River of Plate, where they arrived in January, and caſt anchor in the bay of Maldonado, at the mouth of that river. Pizarro immediately ſent to Buenos-Ayres for a ſupply of proviſions; but

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receiving intelligence from the Portugueſe governor of St. Catharine's, of Mr. Anſon's arrival at that iſland on the 21ſt of December preceding, and of his preparing to put to ſea again, Pizarro reſolved to get round Cape Horn; he weighed anchor with the whole fleet except the Patache, and got under ſail without ſtaying for his proviſions, which however arrived at Maldonado a day or two after his departure. To encourage the men many advantages were offered them to enable them to ſupport the difficulties and fatigues of that hazardous undertaking. But notwithſtanding this precipitate departure, the Engliſh fleet put to ſea four days before him, and in this run the Pearl being ſeparated from the reſt, fell in with Pizarro's fleet, and narrowly eſcaped being taken.

At the latter end of February, Pizarro with his ſquadron had run the length of Cape Horn, and ſtood to the weſtward, in order to double it; but in the night of the laſt day of that month, old ſtile, the Guipuſcoa, the Hermoine, and the Eſperanza, were ſeparated from the admiral; ſix days after, the Guipuſcoa was ſeparated from the other two, and on the 7th a furious ſtorm drove the whole ſquadron to the eaſtward. The calamities they now ſuffered was almoſt incredible, for beſides the fatigues, and the diſtreſſes owing to the leakineſs of the ſhips, the famine was ſo great, that a ſingle rat on board the Aſia ſold for four dollars, and a ſailor who died on board, had his death concealed for ſome days by his brother who lay in the ſame hammock with the corps, only to receive the dead man's allowance of proviſions: while a conſpiracy was ſet on foot by the marines, to murder all the officers, and the whole crew, from no other motive than the deſire of relieving their hunger by appro-

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priating the ſhip's proviſions to themſelves; but the bloody deſign was prevented, when juſt upon the point of execution, by means of their confeſſors, and three of the ringleaders were put to death. But though the conſpiracy was ſuppreſſed, their calamities grew more and more deſtructive, ſo that by fatigue, ſickneſs and hunger, the Aſia arrived at Monte Vedis in the river Plate, with only half her crew. The St. Eſtevan had alſo loſt half her hands, when ſhe anchored in the bay of Barragan, and the Eſperanza, a 50 gun ſhip, who brought 450 hands from Spain, had only 58 alive; and the whole regiment of foot periſhed except 60 men. In ſhort, the Hermoine was ſuppoſed to founder at ſea, for ſhe was never heard of more; and the Guipuſcoa was run aſhore and ſunk on the coaſt of Braſil. This laſt ſhip had on the 4th of April loſt 250 men by hunger and fatigue, and though the veſſel was extremely ſhattered, and let in great quantities of water, thoſe who were capable of working at the pumps, at which every officer without exception took his turn, were allowed only an ounce and a half of biſcuit a day, and thoſe who were too ſick to perform this neceſſary labour, had no more than an ounce of wheat, ſo that the men frequently fell down dead at the pumps. The ſhip having loſt her maſts, the butt ends of the planks being ſtarted, her bolts drawn, and her ſeams all open, and only kept together by ſix turns of cable rope, was drove like a wreck till the 24th of April, when they made the coaſt of Braſil, and caſt anchor 10 leagues to the ſouthward of the iſland of St. Catherine's; the captain being deſirous to proceed to that iſland in order to ſave the hull of the ſhip with the ſtores on board. But the crew being enraged at the hardſhips

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they had ſuffered, and the numbers they had loſt, there being at that time no leſs than 30 dead bodies lying on the deck, they all unanimouſly cried, "on ſhore, on ſhore," and obliged the captain to run her in directly for the land, where the fifth day after, ſhe ſunk with all her ſtores on board, but the remainder of the crew to the number of 400, who had ſurvived their hunger and fatigue, got ſafe on ſhore.

Pizarro being in great want of all kinds of naval ſtores, to fit up the three diſabled ſhips, the poor remains of his ſquadron, and not being able to procure a ſupply from any of the neighbouring ſettlements, diſpatched an advice-boat with a letter of credit to purchaſe what was wanting from the Portugueſe at Rio Janeiro, and ſent an expreſs acroſs the continent to St. Jago in Chili, to be thence forwarded to the viceroy of Peru, informing him of the diſaſters his ſquadron had ſuffered, and deſiring a remittance of 200,000 dollars from the royal cheſt at Lima, to put him in condition to attempt the paſſage to the South Sea a ſecond time; and it is very remarkable that the Indian who undertook to carry this expreſs in the depth of winter when the Cordelleras are eſteemed impaſſable, was only 13 days on his journey from Buenos-Ayres to St. Jago in Chili, tho' theſe places are 300 Spaniſh leagues diſtant, near 40 of which are among the precipices and ſnows of the Cordelleras. The viceroy, however would only remit him 100,000, and the advice-boat, ſent to Rio Janeiro, though it brought back pitch, tar, and cordage, could procure him neither maſts nor yards. To add to Pizarro's misfortune, a carpenter whom he had entruſted with a large ſum of money, and ſent to cut maſts in

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the north parts of Paraguay, married in the country and refuſed to return.

Notwithſtanding theſe diſappointments, Pizarro found means to refit the Aſia, and the St. Eſtevan, and with theſe two ſhips was preparing to put to ſea the October following, in order to attempt the paſſage round Cape Horn a ſecond time. But the St. Eſtevan in ſailing down the river Plate ran on a ſhoal, beat off her rudder, and received ſuch damage, that ſhe was condemned and broke up, and the admiral who had a few months before ſo fine a ſquadron, proceeded to ſea in the Aſia alone. But when he was off Cape Horn, he had again the mortification of being obliged to return by his ſhip's loſing her maſts.

As the Aſia had greatly ſuffered by this ſecond expedition, the Eſperanza was ordered to be refitted, and the command of that ſhip was given to Mindinuetta, who had been captain of the Guipuſcoa, at the time of her being loſt. In November 1742, he ſailed from the river Plate, and arrived ſafe on the coaſt of Chili, where he was met by Pizarro, who paſſed over land from Buenos-Ayres; but on his arrival there, Mindinuetta refuſed to deliver the ſhip up to him, inſiſting that as he entered the South Seas alone, and under no ſuperior, it was not in Pizarro's power to reſume the authority he had once reſigned; but the preſident of Chili declaring for Pizarro, Mindinuetta, after an obſtinate ſtruggle was obliged to ſubmit.

It muſt here be obſerved, that Pizarro in the expreſs he diſpatched to the viceroy of Peru, to obtain the 200,000 dollars, had intimated it was poſſible, that at leaſt a part of the Engliſh ſquadron might get into the South-Seas; but that he was certain from his own experience, that it muſt be in a very weak and defence-

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leſs condition, he adviſed his excellency to ſend what ſhips of war he could get together to the ſouthward, where they would probably intercept the Engliſh ſhips ſingly, before they could reach any port to obtain refreſhment, in which caſe he did not doubt, but his ſhips of war would obtain an eaſy conqueſt. This advice was readily approved by the viceroy of Peru, who having already fitted out four ſhips of force from Callao, one of 50 guns, two of 40 guns, and one of 24 guns, which were intended to join Pizarro at his arrival on the coaſt of Chili, now ſtationed three of them off the port of Conception, and one of them at the iſland of Juan Fernandes, where they continued cruizing for Mr. Anſon's ſquadron, till the 6th of June, when not ſeeing any thing of them, and thinking it impoſſible for them to keep the ſea ſo long, they quitted their cruize, and returned to Calloa; a very remarkable circumſtance, whence it appears, that what the Commodore and the whole crew of the Centurion, conſidered as the moſt dreadful misfortune, and which actually coſt the lives of a great number of men, was the means of their preſervation; for had the Engliſh made the iſland when Mr. Anſon was perſuaded that he ſaw it on the 28th of May, and when they were in reality very near it, they would doubtleſs have fallen into the hands of our enemy; for in the diſtreſſed condition they were then in, it would have been impoſſible for them to have made any conſiderable effort in their own defence; and both the Tryal, the Glouceſter, and the Anna Pink, who ſeparately reached the iſland, might have ſhared the ſame fate, and the admiral with all the ſurviving men, have been carried priſoners to Calloa. At this intelligence, the people on board the Centurion

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were no longer at a loſs, as to the broken jars, aſhes and fiſh-bones, which they had obſerved at their firſt landing at Juan Fernandes, ſince theſe were doubtleſs left by the cruizer ſtationed off that port.

But to return to Pizarro, who had not yet compleated the ſeries of his misfortunes. In 1745, * he and Mindinuetta returned back by land from Chili to Buenos-Ayres, when they found the Aſia at Monte Vedis, which they had left there near three years before, and reſolved if poſſible, to return with her to Europe. They refitted her in the beſt manner they were able, and all their remaining ſailors to be met with in the neighbourhood of Buenos Ayres not amounting to 100 men, they ſupplied the defect by preſſing many of the inhabitants of that city, putting on board all the Engliſh priſoners then in their cuſtody, together with a number of Portugueſe ſmugglers, which had been taken at different times, and ſome Indians of the country, among whom was Orellana an Indian chief, who belonged to a very powerful tribe which had committed great ravages in the neighbourhood of Buenos Ayres, and ten of his followers. With this motely crew, all whom, except the native European Spaniards, were extremely averſe to the voyage, Pizarro ſet ſail about the beginning of November 1745, and the native Spaniards being ſenſible of the diſſatisfaction of the men they had forced on board, treated both thoſe,

* The relation of the inſurrection of Orellana and his followers, was taken from the mouth of an Engliſh gentleman then on board the Aſia, who often converſed with Orellana, and its principal circumſtances were confirmed by others who were in the ſhip at the ſame time, ſo that the truth of this extraordinary fact cannot be doubted.

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the Engliſh priſoners, and the Indians, with great inſolence and barbarity; but more particularly the Indians, for the meaneſt officer in the ſhip often beat them moſt cruelly on the ſlighteſt pretences, and for no other reaſon than to ſhew their ſuperiority, while Orellana, though to appearance patient under his ſufferings, together with his people, meditated a ſevere revenge upon his oppreſſors. He ſtrove to cultivate an intimacy with ſuch of the Engliſh as ſpoke Spaniſh, a language in which he was well verſed, and as he knew that they were as much enemies to the Spaniards as himſelf, he doubtleſs intended to draw them into his ſcheme of revenge to procure their liberty; but ſounding them at a diſtance, and finding them not ſo ready and vindictive as he expected, he reſolved to truſt alone to the reſolution of his ten faithful followers, and having agreed with them on the meaſures neceſſary to be taken, they furniſhed themſelves with Dutch knives, ſharp at the point, which being thoſe commonly uſed in the ſhip, they procured without the leaſt difficulty. Beſides, at their leiſure hours, they ſecretly cut out thongs from raw hides, many of which were on board, and alſo employed themſelves in fixing to each end of theſe thongs, the double-headed ſhot of the quarter-deck guns. This, when ſwung round their heads, according to the practice of their country, was a moſt miſchievous weapon, in the uſe of which the Indians about Buenos Ayres are very expert, as they are trained up to that way of fighting from their infancy. While theſe works were carrying on, the execution of their revenge was doubtleſs precipitated, by a cruel outrage committed on Orellana himſelf; for a very brutal fellow, who was one of the officers, ordering Orellana a-

loft,

loſt, which was what he was incapable of performing, the officer, under pretence of diſobedience, beat him ſo violently, that he left him bleeding on the deck, where he lay for ſome time, ſtunned with his wounds and bruiſes. This doubtleſs made him eager and impatient till the means of executing his revenge were in his power; and a day or two after, he and his followers attempted to put their ſcheme in execution.

Many of the principal officers were on the quarter-deck, about nine in the evening enjoying the freſhneſs of the night air. The waſte part of the ſhip was filled with live cattle, and the forecaſtle was manned with its uſual watch, when Orellana and his companions having prepared this weapon, and thrown off the more cumbrous part of their dreſs, came altogether towards the door of the great cabbin. Upon this they were reprimanded by the boatſwain, who ordered them to be gone. Orellana then ſpoke to his followers in their native language, when four of them drew off, two to each gang-way, and Orellana and the ſix remaining Indians ſeemed to be ſlowly quitting the quarter-deck; inſtead of which Orellana no ſooner ſaw the gang-ways poſſeſſed by his detached parties, than he ſet up the war cry, a ſound perhaps the moſt terrifying that ever was heard. Upon which they all drew their knives, and brandiſhed their double-headed ſhot ſo ſucceſsfully, that they laid near 40 of the Spaniards at their feet, above 20 of whom were killed on the ſpot, and the reſt diſabled. The confuſion which this unexpected attack ſpread among the crew is not to be deſcribed; many of the officers in the beginning of the tumult, ruſhed into the great cabbin, where they put out the light and barricaded the door, while

ſome of the others who had avoided the fury of the reſolute Indians, endeavoured to make their eſcape along the gang-ways into the fore-caſtle; but the Indians placed on purpoſe, ſtabbed the greateſt part of them, as they attempted to paſs by, or forced them from the gang-way into the waſte. Some threw themſelves over the barricadoes into the waſte, and thought themſelves happy in lying concealed among the cattle, but the greateſt part ran up the main-ſhrouds, and ſecured themſelves either in the tops or rigging. Thus with an intrepidity perhaps without example, did theſe eleven Indians, almoſt in an inſtant, poſſeſs themſelves of the quarter-deck of a ſhip mounting 66 guns, and manned with near 500 hands. The watch in the fore-caſtle finding their communication cut off, had run up into the rigging of the fore-maſt and bow-ſprit. The officers in the great cabbin, amongſt whom was Pizarro and Mindinuetta, the crew between decks, and all who had fled, were only anxious for their own ſafety, and were long incapable of forming any project for recovering the poſſeſſion of the ſhip. The yells of the Indians, the groans of the wounded, and the confuſed clamours of the crew, all heightened by the obſcurity of the night, filled them with imaginary terrors, which darkneſs, diſorder, and an utter ignorance of the real ſtrength of an enemy conſtantly produce. And being ſenſible of the diſaffection of their preſſed hands, and conſcious of their own barbarity to their priſoners, they imagined the conſpiracy general, and conſidered their deſtruction as infallible; even ſome of them were ſo terrified, as to take the reſolution of leaping into the ſea, but were prevented by their companions.

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The Indians having cleared the quarter-deck, the tumult in a great meaſure ſubſided; for thoſe who had been ſo happy as to eſcape, were kept ſilent by their fears, and the Indians were incapable of renewing the diſorder by purſuing them. Orellana now broke open the cheſt of arms, which a few days before had been removed to the quarter-deck, on a ſlight ſuſpicion of mutiny, as to a place of the greateſt ſecurity; but to his great diſappointment found nothing but fire arms; tho', had he removed theſe, he would have come at the cutlaſſes, of which he was in ſearch, and in the uſe of which both he and his companions were extremely ſkilful.

At length Pizarro, and his companions in the great cabbin, began to converſe through the cabbin-windows and port-holes, with thoſe in the gun-room and between decks, whence they learned, that the Engliſh, whom they chiefly ſuſpected, were all ſafe below, and at laſt diſcovered, that none were concerned in the mutiny but Orellana and his people. Upon this, Pizarro and the other officers reſolved to attack the Indians, before any of the diſcontented on board ſhould recover their ſurprize and join them. Pizarro therefore got together the arms that were in the cabbin, which were only piſtols, and diſtributed them amongſt thoſe who were with him; and as they had neither powder nor ball, they lowered down a bucket out of the cabbin-window, into which the gunner handed out of the gun-room ports, a quantity of cartridges. Having thus procured ammunition, they loaded their piſtols, and ſetting the door a little open, fired ſeveral ſhot amongſt the Indians on the quarter-deck, but without effect, till at laſt Mindinuetta had the good fortune to ſhoot Orellana dead on the ſpot, when his

faithful companions abandoning all thoughts of farther reſiſtance, inſtantly leaped into the ſea, and every one of them periſhed. Thus was this remarkable inſurrection quelled, and the quarter-deck regained, after it had been full two hours in the poſſeſſion of this great intrepid chief, and his brave, but unhappy countrymen.

Pizarro now continuing his voyage, arrived on the coaſt of Galicia, in the beginning of the year 1746, after his being abſent from Europe between four and five years, and having, by his aſſiduity in endeavouring to defeat Mr Anſon's meaſures, diminiſhed the naval power of Spain, by the deſtruction of four conſiderable ſhips of war, a patache, and above 3000 of the flower of the Spaniſh ſailors.

Beſides the above intelligence, all of which, except that relating to Orellana, the Commodore learnt from the people and papers on board the Carmelo; he was informed, that though the viceroy of Peru had laid an embargo on all the ſhipping in thoſe ſeas, in the month of May preceding, it was now taken off, which made them flatter themſelves with the hopes of obtaining other valuable captures, that might indemnify them for the incapacity they were under in attempting any conſiderable Spaniſh ſettlements on ſhore, and the Commodore having thus ſatisfied himſelf about the material articles of his inquiry, and taken on board the Centurion moſt of the priſoners, and all the ſilver, he ſet ſail for Juan Fernandes, where both he and the prize came to an anchor the following day.

Upon a farther examination of the priſoners and papers, it appearing that ſeveral other merchantment were bound from Callao to Valparaiſo, the Commodore diſ-

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patched the Tryal ſloop the very next morning, to cruiſe off the laſt mentioned port, and alſo reſolved to ſeparate the ſhips under his command, and employ them in diſtinct cruiſes, by which means he would increaſe the chance of obtaining prizes, and run leſs hazard of alarming the coaſt. The ſailors now forgot all their paſt diſtreſſes, and reſuming their wonted alacrity, laboured indefatigably in preparing to take their laſt leave of the iſland; but as theſe preparations, notwithſtanding all their induſtry, took up four or five days, Mr. Anſon in that interval gave orders, that the guns belonging to the Anna Pink, which were four ſix pounders, four four pounders, and two ſwivels, ſhould be mounted on board the prize Carmelo; and having ſent ſix paſſengers and 23 ſeamen on board the Glouceſter to aſſiſt in navigating that ſhip, he directed captain Mitchel to leave Fernandes, and cruiſe off the iſland of Payta, at ſuch a diſtance from ſhore as ſhould prevent his being diſcovered, and on this ſtation he was to continue till he ſhould be joined by the Commodore. Theſe orders being delivered, the Commodore weighed anchor on the 19th of September, in company with the prize, and getting out of the bay, took his leave of the iſland of Juan Fernandes, ſteering to the eaſtward in order to join the Tryal ſloop in her ſtation off Valparaiſo.

CHAP. V.

The taking of the Tryal's prize the Arranzazu. The Tryal condemned and ſunk, as unfit for ſervice. The taking of the Santa Tereſa de Jeſus, and the Nueſtra Senora del Carmin.

THE Centurion upon her leaving Juan Fernandes, was detained three days by the irregularity and fluctuation of the winds, within ſight of that iſland; but on the 25th of September, juſt before ſun-ſet, ſaw two ſail to the eaſtward, on which the prize ſtood directly from the Centurion, to avoid giving any ſuſpicion of their being cruizers; while the Commodore made ready for an engagement, and ſteered with all his canvas, towards the ſhips he had diſcovered. It was ſoon perceived that one of thoſe, which appeared to be a ſtout ſhip, made directly towards him, while the other kept at a diſtance. By ſeven o'clock the Centurion was within piſtol-ſhot of the neareſt, and had a broad-ſide ready to pour into her, the gunners with their matches in their hands, waiting only for the orders to fire; but as Mr. Anſon knew it impoſſible for her to eſcape, he, before he ſuffered them to fire, ordered the maſter to hale them in Spaniſh, when the commanding officer on board, who proved to be Mr. Hughs, lieutenant of the Tryal, anſwered him in Engliſh, and let him know that ſhe was a prize taken by the Tryal a few days before, and that the other ſhip at a diſtance was the Tryal herſelf, who

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was diſabled in her maſts. The Tryal ſoon after joined the Centurion, and captain Saunders her commander, coming on board, informed the Commodore that his prize was a prime ſailor, and had coſt him 36 hours chace; that for ſome time he began to deſpair of taking her, and the Spaniards, though alarmed at firſt with ſeeing nothing but a cloud of ſail in purſuit of them; (for the Tryal's hull was ſo low in the water, that no part of it appeared;) yet finding how little the Tryal gained upon them, they at length laid aſide their fears, and altered their courſe in the night, ſhut up their windows to prevent any of their lights being ſeen; but a ſmall crevice in one of the ſhutters, rendered all their precautions ineffectual; for the Tryal's people perceiving a light through it, chaced it till they arrived within a gun-ſhot, when captain Saunders unexpectedly alarmed them with a broad-ſide; and before they could fire another, they lowered their ſails, and ſubmitted without oppoſition. She was called the Arranzazu, and was one of the largeſt merchant-men employed in thoſe ſeas, being about 600 tons burden. Her cargo was much the ſame as that of the Carmelo, but her ſilver only amounted to 5000 *l.* ſterling.

This ſucceſs was, however, balanced by the Tryal's having had the misfortune to ſpring her main-maſt; her main-top-maſt had alſo come by the board; and the next morning, as they were all ſtanding to the eaſtward ſhe ſprung her fore-maſt. Theſe incidents were rendered more unhappy by the impoſſibility of aſſiſting her; for the wind blew ſo hard that the Commodore could not venture to hoiſt out his boat; ſo that as he could not think of leaving her in this unhappy ſituation, he was o-

bliged to lay to, in order to attend her for the greateſt part of forty-eight hours; and as they were all the while driving from their ſtation, there was reaſon to fear that this deprived them of ſeveral conſiderable captures.

However, on the 27th, the weather proving more moderate, Mr. Anſon ſent his boat for the captain of the Tryal, who, on his coming on board, produced an inſtrument, ſigned by himſelf and all his officers, repreſenting that the ſloop, beſides being diſmaſted, was ſo very leaky in her hull, that it was neceſſary to ply the pumps even in moderate weather, and that if the weather ſhould prove bad they muſt inevitably periſh; when the Commodore conſidering, that he had not the neceſſary ſtores proper for repairing her, gave orders for her being deſtroyed; but conceiving it expedient to keep up the appearance of the ſame force, appointed the Tryal's prize, which the viceroy of Peru had often employed as a man of war, to be a frigate in his majeſty's ſervice, and to be manned by the Trial's crew, under the ſame captain and officers. When in the Spaniſh ſervice ſhe had mounted 32 guns, but was now to have only 20, which were the 12 on board the Tryal, and eight that had belonged to the Anna Pink. This being determined, captain Saunders was directed to take out of the ſloop the arms, ammunition, ſtores, and every thing that could be of uſe to the other ſhips, and then to ſcuttle and ſink her; after which he was to proceed with his new frigate, which was to be called the Tryal's Prize, and to cruize off the iſland of Valparaiſo, where he was to continue 24 days; and if not joined by the Commodore in that time, he was to proceed down the coaſt to Piſco, or Naſca, where he would be certain of meeting with Mr. Anſon.

Anſon. Theſe orders being given, the Centurion left the other veſſels on the 27th of September, in order to cruize for ſome days off Valparaiſo.

Notwithſtanding this diſpoſition was the moſt prudent that could be imagined, conſidering the ſmallneſs of the Commodore's force, yet he had not the happineſs to ſee any ſhips at any of theſe ſtations; and being joined by the Tryal's and Centurion's prizes, the latter of which had aſſiſted in clearing and ſcuttling the Tryal, it was reſolved to join captain Mitchel, who was ſtationed off Payta, that if a Spaniſh ſquadron ſhould be fitted out at Callao, they might, by uniting their ſtrength be prepared to give it a warm reception With this view they ſtood to the northward, and on the 5th of November, came in ſight of the high land of Barranca, and an hour afterwards had the ſatisfaction they had ſo long wiſhed for, of ſeeing a ſail, upon which they immediately gave chace; but the Centurion out-ſailing the two prizes, run them out of ſight, and gained conſiderably on the chace. However, as the night came on, ſhe, about ſeven o'clock, loſt ſight of her, and the officers were in ſome perplexity what courſe to ſteer; but at laſt the Commodore reſolved, as they were then before the wind, not to change his courſe. The chace was thus continued about an hour and a half in the dark, ſome or other conſtantly imagining they diſcerned her ſails right a-head; but at length Mr. Brett, the ſecond lieutenant, really diſcovered her, about four points to the larboard, ſteering off to the ſeaward; and immediately ſtanding for her, they, in leſs than an hour came up with her, and having fired 14 ſhot at her, ſhe ſtruck. Mr. Dennis, the Centurion's third lieutenant, was ſent in the boat with 16 men, to

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take poſſeſſion of the prize, when he found that ſhe was about 300 ton burden, was named the Sancta Tereſa de Jeſus; was bound from Guaiaquil to Callao, and that her lading conſiſted of hides, timber, tobacco, cocoa, cocoa nuts, Quito thread, which is very ſtrong, and made of a ſpecies of graſs, wax, Quito cloth, &c. But the ſpecie on board amounted to no more than 170 *l.* Tho' the cargo was of great value to the Spaniards, yet as they had ſtrict orders never to ranſome their ſhips, all the goods taken in thoſe ſeas, except what the Engliſh themſelves had occaſion for, were of no other advantage, than as it was a loſs to the enemy.

Beſides the crew, which amounted to 45 hands, there were ten paſſengers on board, four men and three women, who were natives of the country, but born of Spaniſh parents, together with three black ſlaves that attended them; the women were, the mother and her two daughters, the eldeſt of whom was 21, and the youngeſt about 14. Theſe women were extremely terrified, and in the greateſt diſtreſs, at their falling into the hands of an enemy, whom, from the former outrages of the buccaniers, and the artful inſinuations of their prieſts, they had been taught to conſider as the moſt brutal and terrible of all mankind. Theſe dreadful apprehenſions were greatly heightened, by the remarkable beauty of the youngeſt of the women, and the riotous diſpoſition they might reaſonably expect to find in a ſet of ſailors, who had not ſeen a woman for near a twelvemonth. Filled with theſe terrors, the women hid themſelves as ſoon as the officer came on board; and when they were diſcovered, he found much difficulty in perſuading them to approach the light. However he ſoon convinced them,

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by his humane behaviour, and his aſſurances of their future ſafety, and honourable treatment, that all their apprehenſions were groundleſs. The Commodore being informed of the terror they had diſcovered, immediately ſent word that they ſhould be continued on board their own ſhip; have the uſe of the ſame apartments, and all the other conveniences they had formerly enjoyed; he gave ſtrict orders, that they ſhould receive no moleſtation or diſturbance whatſoever. To give them the greater certainty that theſe orders would be complied with, as well as to afford them the means of complaining if they were not, he allowed the pilot, who is generally the ſecond perſon on board the Spaniſh ſhips, to ſtay with them, as their guardian and protector, an office to which this pilot was choſen by Mr. Anſon, from his ſeeming extremely intereſted in every thing relating to the women, and his at firſt declaring he was married to the youngeſt of them; though it afterwards appeared, that he had aſſerted this, with no other view but to ſecure them the better from the treatment they expected to find, on their falling into the hands of the Engliſh. By this compaſſionate and indulgent behaviour, their conſternation entirely ſubſided, and they continued eaſy and chearful during the whole time they remained priſoners.

The next morning the Centurion was joined by her two conſorts, when they proceeded to the northward, they being now four ſail in company. They here found the ſea for many miles round them, of a beautiful red colour; which upon examination, was imputed to an immenſe quantity of ſpawn ſwimming upon its ſurface; for ſome of the water being taken up in a wine glaſs, it

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had there a dirty appearance, but ſoon changed to a clear cryſtal, with only ſome red globules of a ſlimy nature floating on the top. As they had a ſupply of timber on board their new prizes, the Commodore gave orders for repairing their boats, and for fixing a ſwivel gun-ſtock in the bow, both of the barge and pinnace, in order to increaſe their force, in caſe he ſhould be obliged to make uſe of them in boarding ſhips, or for any attempts on ſhore.

Though they continued ſtanding to the northward, nothing remarkable occurred for two or three days, notwithſtanding the ſhips were ſpread in ſuch a manner, that it was ſcarcely poſſible for any of the enemy's veſſels to eſcape them. In their run along this coaſt it was obſerved, that there was a current which ſet them to the northward, at the rate of ten miles a day. Being now in about eight degrees of ſouth latitude, they began to be attended with vaſt numbers of flying-fiſh and bonitos, which were the firſt they ſaw after their departure from the coaſt of Braſil. But it is obſervable, that on the eaſt ſide of South America, they extended to a much higher latitude than they did on the weſt ſide; for the ſailors did not loſe ſight of them on the coaſt of Braſil, till they approached the ſouthern tropic. The reaſon of which is doubtleſs the different degrees of heat obtaining in the ſame latitude on the different ſides of the continent. For it is evident, that the temperature of a place depends much more upon other circumſtances than its diſtance from the pole, or its proximity to the equinoctial. Thus it was found by this ſquadron, that tho' the coaſt of Braſil is extremely ſultry, yet the coaſt of the South-ſeas, in the ſame latitude, is, perhaps, as temperate

perate as any part of the globe, ſince in ranging along it, they did not once meet with ſuch warm weather as is frequent in a ſummer's day in England, which was the more extraordinary, as there never falls any rains to refreſh and cool the air. On the coaſt of Peru, and even under the equinoctial itſelf, every circumſtance concurred to make the open air and day-light deſireable; for in other countries, the ſcorching heat of the ſun in ſummer, renders the greater part of the day unapt either for labour or amuſement, and the frequent rains are not leſs troubleſome in the more temperate parts of the year. But in this delightful climate, the ſun rarely appears, for there is conſtantly a chearful grey ſky, juſt ſufficient to ſkreen the ſun, and to mitigate the violence of its perpendicular rays, without obſcuring the air, or tinging the day-light with an unpleaſant or melancholy appearance. Thus all parts of the day are proper for labour or exerciſe abroad, while the refreſhing and agreeable coolneſs of the air in other climates produced by rains; is here brought about by freſh breezes, from the cooler regions to the ſouthward.

It is not to be doubted, that this happy complexion of the heavens, is chiefly owing to the neighbourhood of thoſe vaſt mountains called the Andes, which running nearly parallel the ſhore, from which they are but a ſmall diſtance, and extending themſelves immenſely higher than any other mountains upon the globe, form upon their ſides and declivities a prodigious tract of country, where according to the different approaches to their ſummit, all kind of climates may at all ſeaſons be found. Theſe mountains intercept great part of the eaſtern winds which generally blow upon the continent of South America,

America, cool that part of the air which forces its way over the tops, and keep a large part of the atmosphere perpetually cool, from its contiguity to the snows, with which they are constantly covered. Thus these mountains, by spreading the influence of their frozen crests to the neighbouring coasts and seas of Peru, are doubtless the cause of the temperature and equability which constantly prevail there. But when this squadron had advanced beyond the equinoctial, and left these mountains, the people had nothing to screen them to the eastward, but the highlands on the isthmus of Panama, which are but mole-hills to the Andes; they then experienced in a short time, an entire change of climate, and in two or three days passed from the temperate air of Peru to the sultry burning atmosphere of the West-Indies.

On the 10th of November, the Commodore was within three leagues of the southermost island of Lobos, lying in six degrees 27 minutes south latitude; and now drawing near the station appointed for the Gloucester, made an easy sail all night; but the next morning at daybreak, saw a ship in shore, and to windward, which passed the squadron by favour of the night, and was plying up the coast. As she was soon perceived not to be the Gloucester, they got their tacks on board, and gave her chace; but there being very little wind, which prevented any of the ships making much way, the Commodore ordered the barge, his pinnace, and the Tryal's pinnace to be manned and armed, to pursue the chace, and board her. Lieutenant Brett, who commanded the barge, came up with her about 9 o'clock, and running a long side of her, fired a volley of small shot between her masts, over the heads of the people on board, and then instantly

ly entered with moſt of his men, the enemy making no reſiſtance, they being ſufficiently frightened by the volley they had juſt received, and the dazzling of the cutlaſſes. Lieutenant Brett immediately ordered the ſails to be trimmed, and bore down to the Commodore, taking up in his way the two pinnaces; but when he came within four miles of the Centurion, he put off in the barge with a number of priſoners, from whom he had learned ſome material intelligence, which he was deſirous of communicating to the Commodore as ſoon as poſſible. The prize was named the Nueſtra Senoro del Carmin; it was of about 270 tons burden, and had on board 43 mariners, and was deeply laden with ſteel, iron, plank, cedar, pepper, cinnamon, powder, blue, European bale goods, ſnuff, roſaries, Roman indulgences, and other ſpecies of merchandize. Though this cargo, in their preſent circumſtances was but of little value, yet it was a greater loſs to the Spaniards than any capture they had made in that part of the world; for it amounted to above 400,000 dollars prime coſt at Panama. This ſhip was bound to Callao, and had ſtopt at Payta in her paſſage, to take in a freſh ſupply of water and proviſions, having left that place about 24 hours, before ſhe fell in the hands of the Engliſh; and from the paſſengers on board this ſhip, lieutenant Brett had been informed, that a few days before, a veſſel had entered Payta, the maſter of which had told the governor that he had been chaced by a very large ſhip, which from her ſize and the colour of her ſails, he imagined to be one of the Engliſh ſquadron, and that the governor being fully ſatisfied with this relation, had immediately ſent an expreſs to Lima, to carry the news to the viceroy, while the royal officer

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reſiding at Payta, being apprehenſive of a viſit from the Engliſh, had, on his firſt learning this intelligence, been buſily employed in removing both the king's treaſure and his own to Piura, a town within land, at about 14 leagues diſtance; but that there was a conſiderable ſum of money belonging to ſome merchants of Lima, lodged in the cuſtom-houſe of Payta, which was intended to be ſent on board a veſſel then in the port, and that was preparing to ſail with the utmoſt expedition; it being bound for the bay of Sonſonnate on the coaſt of Mexico, to purchaſe a part of the cargo of the Manila ſhip.

It was immediately conjectured, that the large ſhip which had chaced the veſſel into Payta was the Glouceſter, as indeed it was, and it being found, that the veſſel in which the money was to be ſhipped, was eſteemed a prime ſailor, and had juſt received a new coat of tallow on her bottom; it was concluded that they had no chance of coming up with her, if they ſuffered her to eſcape out of the port. Therefore, as they were now diſcovered, and the coaſt would be ſoon alarmed, ſo as to prevent their cruizing being of any advantage, the Commodore, after minutely inquiring into the ſtrength and condition of the place, reſolved to endeavour to ſurprize it that very night.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

The taking and burning of the town of Payta. The ſetting the priſoners on ſhore; and an account of the generous treatment they received from the commodore.

PAYTA is ſituated in a barren ſoil, only compoſed of ſand and ſlate; it is 5° 12′. ſouth latitude, and does not furniſh a drop of freſh water, or any kind of greens or proviſions, except fiſh and a few goats; but about two leagues diſtant, there is a town called Colan, whence water, maize, greens, fowls, &c. are conveyed to Payta on floats, for the convenience of the ſhips that touch there; and cattle brought from Piura, a town which lies almoſt 14 degrees up in the country. The water fetched from Colan is whitiſh, and has a diſagreeable look; but is ſaid to be very wholeſome, they pretending, that it runs thro' large woods of Sarſaparilla, and that it is ſenſibly impregnated with it. The port of Payta, though in reality little more than a bay, is eſteemed the beſt in that part of the coaſt; and indeed it affords a very ſecure and commodious anchorage; and is much frequented by all veſſels coming from the North, as there is no other place for the ſhips from Acapulco, Sonſonnate, Realejo, and Panama, to take in refreſhments in the paſſage to Callao; and the wind being for the greateſt part of the year full againſt them renders it impoſſible for them to perform theſe long voyages, without ſtopping for a recruit of freſh water. The town was but of ſmall extent, as it contained leſs than

200 families. The houſes were only ground floors, the walls of which were built of ſplit cane and mud, and the roofs were thatched with leaves; but though theſe edifices were extremely ſlight, they were ſufficient for a climate, where rain is conſidered as a prodigy, and is not ſeen in many years.

Mr. Anſon, on inquiring into the ſtrength of the place, was told, that it had no other protection than the fort, in which was mounted eight pieces of cannon; but that it had neither ditch nor outwork, it being ſurounded by a plain brick wall, and that the garriſon conſiſted only of one weak company, though the town might poſſibly arm 300 men more.

The Commodore, conſidering that the ſtrength of the place did not require his whole force, and that his ſhips might be eaſily ſeen at a diſtance, even in the night, which would alarm the inhabitants, and give them an opportunity of removing their valuable effects, reſolved to attempt it with the boats only, and ordered the 18 oared barge, with his own and the Tryal's pinnaces on that ſervice. Having picked out 58 men, well furniſhed with arms and ammunition, and intruſted the command of the expedition to lieutenant Brett, to prevent the confuſion which poſſibly might ariſe from their ignorance of the ſtreets, and the darkneſs of the night, he ordered two of the Spaniſh pilots to conduct the lieutenant to the moſt convenient landing-place, and to be his guides on ſhore; to ſecure their fidelity, the priſoners were informed, that they ſhould all of them be releaſed, and landed at this place, provided the pilots acted faithfully. At the ſame time he threatened the pilots, that if they were guilty of treachery, or miſconduct, they ſhould

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be inſtantly ſhot, and he would carry the reſt of the Spaniards on board, priſoners to England.

About 10 o'clock at night, at which time the ſhips were within five leagues of the place, lieutenant Brett, with the boats under his command, put off, and arrived, without being diſcovered, at the mouth of the bay; but he had no ſooner entered it, than he was perceived by ſome of the people on board a veſſel riding at anchor, who immediately getting into their boat, rowed toward the ſhore, ſhouting and crying, "The Engliſh, the Eng-"liſh dogs, &c" by which the whole town was inſtantly alarmed, and the men in the boats ſoon perceived ſeveral lights hurrying backwards and forwards in the fort, and other marks of the inhabitants being in motion. Upon this lieutenant Brett encouraged his men to pull up briſkly, that they might allow the enemy as little time as poſſible to prepare for their defence. But before the boats could reach the ſhore, the ſoldiers in the fort had got ſome of the cannon ready, which they pointed toward the landing-place, and the firſt ſhot paſſed very near one of the boats, whiſtling juſt over the heads of the crew. Upon this the men redoubled their efforts, ſo that they had reached the ſhore, and part of them were landed, by the time the ſecond gun was fired. The men were no ſooner on ſhore, than one of the Spaniſh pilots conducted them to the entrance of a narrow ſtreet, where they were covered from the fire of the fort; and being formed in the beſt manner the ſhortneſs of the time would permit, they inſtantly marched to the parade, a large ſquare at the end of this ſtreet, the fort being on one ſide, and the governor's houſe on the other. In this march, which was performed with toler-

able regularity, the ſhouts and clamours of threeſcore ſailors, who had been ſo long confined on ſhipboard, and were now for the firſt time on ſhore in an enemy's country, joyous as they always are, when they land, and beſides animated with the hopes of immenſe plunder; the huzzas, I ſay, of this ſpirited detachment, added to the noiſe of their drums, had ſo augmented their numbers in the opinion of the enemy, that their fear made them more ſollicitous about the means of flight, than of reſiſtance. However, the merchants, who owned the treaſure then in the town, had, with a few others, ranged themſelves in a gallery that ran round the governor's houſe, and thence diſcharged a volley upon the Engliſh ſailors; but upon their returning the fire, they abandoned the poſt, and left the Engliſh in poſſeſſion of the parade.

Lieutenant Brett, upon this ſucceſs, divided his men into two parties, one of which he ordered to ſurround the governor's houſe, and, if poſſible, to ſecure the governor, while he himſelf, at the head of the other, marched to the fort, with a deſign to force it; but to his great ſurprize, he entered it without oppoſition, for the enemy abandoned it on his approach, and made their eſcape over the walls. Thus the whole place was taken in leſs than a quarter of an hour's time from their firſt landing, with no other loſs, than one man killed on the ſpot, and two wounded.

Lieutenant Brett now placed a guard at the fort, and another at the governor's houſe, and then appointed centinels at all the avenues of the town, both to prevent being ſurprized by the enemy, and to ſecure the effects from being embezzled. This being done, his next care

was

was to ſeize upon the cuſtom-houſe, where the treaſure was depoſited, and to examine whether any of the inhabitants remained in the town, in order to know what farther precautions it was neceſſary for him to take; but he ſoon found that he was in no danger from the numbers left behind; for moſt of the people being in bed when the place was ſurprized, had fled with ſuch precipitation, that they had not allowed themſelves time to put on their cloaths; and the governor himſelf was not the laſt in providing for his own ſafety; for he fled before moſt of the reſt half naked, leaving his wife, a young lady of about 17 years of age, to whom he had been married but three or four days; but ſhe too was afterwards carried off in her ſhift, by a couple of centinels, juſt as the detachment arrived before the houſe. The few inhabitants, who remained, were confined under a guard in one of the churches, except ſome ſtout negroes, who were employed the remaining part of the night, to aſſiſt in carrying the treaſure from the cuſtom-houſe and other places to the fort; but theſe were always attended by a file of muſqueteers.

The conveyance of the treaſure from the cuſtom-houſe, was the principal employment of Mr. Brett's people; but while the ſailors were thus buſied, they could not be prevented from entering the houſes in their way, in ſearch of private pillage, where the firſt thing that they obſerved being the cloaths left by the Spaniards in their flight, which, according to the cuſtom of the country, were moſt of them either embroidered or laced, they eagerly ſeized theſe glittering habits, and ſlipt them on over their own dirty trouſers and jackets; at the ſame time, not fogetting the tye ar bag-wig, and laced hat,

which were generally found with the cloaths; and this practice being once begun, there was no preventing its being imitated by the whole detachment. But thoſe, who came lateſt into the faſhion, not finding men's cloaths ſufficient to equip themſelves, took up with women's gowns and petticoats, which, provided they were rich enough, they made no ſcruple of putting on, and blending with their own greaſy dreſs, ſo that Mr Brett was extremely ſurprized at their groteſque figure, when a party thus ridiculouſly metamorphoſed firſt came before him, and could ſcarcely know them.

Mean while the Centurion and the other ſhips made an eaſy ſail towards Payta, and about ſeven in the morning, began to open the bay. Though thoſe on board had no reaſon to doubt of the ſucceſs of the enterprize, yet it was with great joy they diſcovered, by means of their perſpectives, an Engliſh flag hoiſted on the flag-ſtaff of the fort. Then they plyed into the bay with as much expedition as poſſible, and at eleven the Tryal boat came on board the Centurion, laden with dollars and church plate, when the officer who commanded it, informed the Commodore of the tranſactions of the preceding night.

Mr. Brett hitherto went on collecting and removing the treaſure without interruption, while the enemy aſſembled from all parts of the country, on a hill at the back of the town, where they made a conſiderable appearance, having amongſt the reſt of their force 200 horſe, that ſeemed well armed, mounted, and furniſhed with trumpets, drums, and ſtandards. They paraded about the hill with great oſtentation, ſounding their military muſic, and practiſing every art to intimidate the few

who

who were on ſhore, whoſe numbers were now known, to induce them to abandon the place before the pillage was compleated. Mr. Brett, however, proceeded in ſending off the treaſure, and in employing the boats to carry on board refreſhments, ſuch as hogs, fowls, &c. as long as it was light. To prevent any ſurprize in the night, the Commodore ſent a reinforcement on ſhore, which was poſted in all the paſſages leading to the parade, and for their further ſecurity, the ſtreets were fortified with barricadoes ſix feet high. But as the enemy remained quiet all the night, they reſumed at day-break, the employment of loading the boats, and ſending them off.

It now appeared of what importance it would have been, had it been poſſible to have ſecured the governor; for had he been in their power, he would probably have been induced to treat for the ranſom of many ſtore-houſes full of valuable effects, for which the Commodore had no room on board, but which would have been of extraordinary advantage to him. Having collected all the force of the country for many leagues round, he was ſo elated with his numbers, and ſo fond of his new military command, that he ſeemed to have loſt all concern for the fate of his government; and though the Commodore ſent ſeveral meſſages to him, by ſome who had been taken priſoners, offering to ranſom the town upon eaſy terms, he was ſo arrogant and impudent, that he would not even return an anſwer.

On the ſecond day of the Engliſh being in poſſeſſion of the place, the Spaniards were in ſuch want of water, that many of their ſlaves crept into the town by ſtealth, and carried away ſeveral jars of water to their maſters on the hill; and Mr. Brett was informed both by the

deſerters, and ſome priſoners he took, as they were carrying away the water, that the Spaniards on the hill being increaſed to a formidable number, had reſolved to ſtorm the town and port the ſucceeding night, when one Gordon a Scotch papiſt, was to have the command of that enterprize. He, however, continued ſending off the boats, without the leaſt hurry or precipitation till the evening, when a reinforcement was again ordered on ſhore by Mr. Anſon, and Mr. Brett doubled his guards at each of the barricadoes. The different poſts were connected by means of centinels placed within call of each other, and the whole viſited by frequent rounds attended with a drum. Theſe marks of the vigilance and readineſs of the Engliſh to receive them, damped their reſolution; ſo that they paſſed that night with as little moleſtation as they had done the former.

As Mr. Brett had the evening before ſent all the treaſure on board the Centurion, the boats were employed on the third morning, which was the 15th of November, in carrying off the moſt valuable part of the effects that remained in the town; and the Commodore intending to ſail in the afternoon, he about ten o'clock ſent all his priſoners, amounting to 88, on ſhore, giving orders to lieutenant Brett, to ſecure them in one of the churches, till the men were ready to embark. Mr. Brett was at the ſame time ordered, to burn the whole town, except the two churches, which ſtood at ſome diſtance from the houſes, after which he was to abandon the place, and return on board. That gentleman punctually complied with theſe orders for ſetting his men to work, he diſtributed pitch, tar, and other combuſtibles, of which there were great quantities in the town, into houſes ſituated

ated in different ſtreets; that the place being fired in many quarters at the ſame time, the deſtruction might be the more violent and ſudden, and the enemy after his departure, might not be able to extinguiſh it. This being done, he cauſed the cannon of the fort to be nailed up, and then ſetting fire to ſuch houſes as were to the windward, he collected his men and marched towards the beach, where the boats waited to carry them off. That part of the beach, whence he intended to embark, being an open place without the town, the Spaniards on the hill perceived he was retreating, and reſolved, in order to lay ſome foundation for future boaſting, to try if they could precipitate their departure; for this purpoſe, a ſmall ſquadron of about 60 horſes marched down the hill with much ſeeming reſolution; but notwithſtanding the pomp and parade with which they at firſt came on, Mr. Brett had no ſooner ordered his men to halt and face about, than they put a ſtop to their career, and did not dare to advance a ſtep farther while he continued on the beach.

On their arrival at the boats in order to go on board, the men were ſome time retarded by miſſing one of their number, and being unable, by their enquiries among each other, to learn where he was left, or by what accident he was detained, they, after a conſiderable delay, got into the boats, in order to depart without him; but when the laſt man was actually embarked, and the boats were putting off, they heard him calling to them to take him in. The town was by this time ſo completely on fire, and the ſmoke covered the beach with ſuch a cloud that they could ſcarcely diſcern him, though they heard his voice; the lieutenant however, immediately ordered one

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of the boats to his relief, who found him up to the chin in water, for he had waded as far as he durſt, being extremely terrified at the apprehenſions of falling into the hands of an enemy, who were doubtleſs enraged at the plunder and deſtruction of their town. Inquiry being made into the cauſe of his ſtaying behind the reſt, it was found that he had that morning taken too large a quantity of brandy, which had thrown him into ſo found a ſleep, that he did not awake till the fire came near enough to ſcorch him. At firſt opening his eyes, he was ſtrangely amazed at ſeeing on the one hand, all the houſes in a blaze, and on the other, ſeveral Spaniards and Indians near him. The greatneſs and ſuddenneſs of his fright inſtantly reduced him to a ſtate of ſobriety, and gave him the preſence of mind to puſh through the thickeſt of the ſmoke, the likelieſt means of eſcaping the enemy, and then making the beſt of his way to the beach, he, though he could not ſwim, ran as far into the water as he durſt, before he ventured to look back; but to the honour of all the other brave fellows who were on ſhore, though there were great quantities of wine and ſpirituous liquors, ready at their hands, at almoſt every warehouſe, this was the only man who was known to have ſo far neglected his duty as to get drunk.

By the time the ſailors had helped their comrade out of the water, and were rowing to the ſquadron, the flames had ſeized every part of the town, and by means of the combuſtibles, the ſlightneſs of the materials of which the houſes were built, and their aptneſs to take fire, had taken ſuch hold, that it was viſible no endeavours of the enemy, though they flocked down in great numbers, could poſſibly prevent the entire deſtruction of the town and all the merchandize contained in it.

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Lieutenant Brett's detachment having joined the ſquadron, the Commodore prepared to ſail that evening. At his firſt coming into the bay, he found ſix of the enemy's veſſels at anchor, one of which was the ſhip that was to have conveyed the treaſure to the coaſt of Mexico, and being informed ſhe was a good ſailor, he reſolved to take her with him. There were alſo two ſnows, a bark, and two row galleys of 36 oars each, which the Commodore having no occaſion for, had ordered the maſts of all five to be cut away at his firſt arrival, and at his leaving the place, they were towed out of the harbour, ſcuttled and ſunk; the command of the other ſhip was given to Mr. Hughes the lieutenant of the Tryal, who was allowed ten men to navigate her; and the ſquadron, which was now augmented to ſix ſail, that is, the Centurion, the Tryal's Prize, the Carmelo, the Carmin, the Tereſa, and the Soledad, the laſt acquired veſſel, weighed anchor about midnight, and ſailed out of the bay.

The loſs of the Spaniards by the deſtruction of Payta was very conſiderable, ſince a very great part of the goods that were burnt, conſiſted of velvets, cambricks, ſilks, broad cloths, &c. &c. and though the acquiſition made by the Engliſh was very inconſiderable in compariſon with what was deſtroyed, yet it was far from being deſpicable, for the wrought plate, dollars and other coin which fell into their hands, amounted to above 30,000 *l.* ſterling, beſides ſeveral rings, bracelets, and jewels, whoſe value could not then be determined; the plunder that became the property of the immediate captors, was alſo very conſiderable, ſo that this was the moſt important booty they had hitherto met with.

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It has been already obſerved, that all the priſoners taken in the preceeding prizes, were ſet on ſhore and diſcharged at Payta, and as the honour done to our national character in thoſe parts, was very great, from the humanity and generoſity with which Mr. Anſon behaved to thoſe who fell into his hands, this circumſtance deſerves to be more particularly related. Amongſt theſe priſoners were ſome perſons of conſiderable diſtinction, and in particular a youth of about ſeventeen years of age, the ſon of the vice-preſident of the council of Chili. As the natives of thoſe countries had the moſt terrible ideas of the cruelties of the Engliſh, all the priſoners at their firſt being taken on board the Engliſh ſquadron were under great horror and anxiety of mind; but the young gentleman juſt mentioned, who had never been from home before, lamented his captivity in the moſt moving expreſſions, regretting in very plaintive terms, the loſs of his parents, his brothers, his ſiſters, and his native country, being fully perſuaded that he had taken his laſt farewel of them, and that he was devoted for the remainder of his life to an abject and cruel ſervitude; indeed, all the Spaniſh priſoners had the ſame deſponding opinion of their ſituation; but Mr. Anſon conſtantly exerted all his endeavours to efface theſe terrifying impreſſions, by taking care that as many of the principal perſons amongſt them as there were room for, ſhould by turns dine at his table, and by giving the ſtricteſt orders that they ſhould at all times be treated with the utmoſt humanity and decency; but notwithſtanding this, it was obſerved, that for the firſt two or three days, they retained their fears, and ſuſpected that the gentleneſs of their uſage was preparatory to ſome unknown

calamity:

calamity: but at length being convinced of the Commodore's ſincerity, they grew remarkably chearful, and the youth above-mentioned, not only conquered his fears, but entertained a great affection for Mr. Anſon, and ſeemed ſo delighted with a manner of life, different from every thing he had known before, that it was doubted whether he would not have preferred a voyage to England in the Centurion, to his being immediately ſet on ſhore on Payta.

As the Commodore's humanity was conſtant and uniform, it gave the priſoners favourable ſentiments of the whole Engliſh nation; and their good opinion was greatly increaſed by the Commodore's leaving the ladies taken in the Tereſa the poſſeſſion of their apartments, in preventing all his people on board from approaching them, and allowing the pilot to ſtay with them as their guardian: at which the Spaniards on board were the more ſurprized, as it was done without his ever ſeeing the women, though the two daughters were both eſteemed handſome, and the youngeſt was eſteemed a celebrated beauty. The women themſelves were ſo ſenſible of the obligations they owed him on this account, that they abſolutely refuſed to go on ſhore at Payta, till they were allowed to wait on the Commodore, on board the Centurion, to return him thanks in perſon; and indeed, all the priſoners left the Engliſh with the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of their grateful remembrance of the generous treatment they had met with. In particular, a jeſuit who had been taken by the Commodore, and who was an eccleſiaſtic of ſome diſtinction, returned his thanks for the civilities he and his countrymen had found on board, declaring that he ſhould always conſider it as his duty to

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do Mr. Anſon juſtice, and added that his treatment of the men priſoners was ſuch as could never be forgot, that his behaviour to the women was ſo extraordinary, that he doubted whether the regard due to his own eccleſiaſtical character, would be ſufficient to render it credible. Mr. Walter obſerves, "That he was afterwards "informed, that both he and the reſt of the priſoners "had not been ſilent on this head; but had both at Li-"ma and other places, given the greateſt encomiums on "the Commodore; the jeſuit in particular, having on "his account, interpreted in a lax and hypothetical ſenſe, "that article of his church, which aſſerts the impoſſibi-"lity of heretics being ſaved."

CHAP. VII.

Diſputes about the plunder happily adjuſted. Two prizes taken by the Glouceſter. They ſteer for Quibo. The Tereſa and Solidad burned. The proceedings of the ſquadron at Quibo. A deſcription of that island; an account of the pearl fiſhery, and of the various kinds of turtle.

THE ſquadron having ſet ſail from Payta on the 16th of November at about midnight, the Commodore in the morning gave orders for the ſhips to diſperſe, in order to look out for the Glouceſter. A jealouſy now aroſe between thoſe who had been commanded on ſhore, and thoſe who had continued on board, occaſioned by the private plunder got at Payta, which the former

former conſidered as a reward for the riſks they had run, and the reſolution they had ſhewn, while thoſe who remained on board, urged, that had it been left to their choice, they ſhould have preferred acting on ſhore to continuing on board, and that while their comrades were on land, their duty was extremely fatiguing, ſince they were conſtantly under arms to ſecure the priſoners, whoſe numbers exceeded their own, to prevent any attempts that might be formed at that critical juncture, and that a ſufficient force on board was as neceſſary to the ſucceſs of the enterprize, as the action of the others on ſhore; and this diſpute aroſe to ſuch a height, that the Commodore thought it neceſſary to interpoſe his authority, before it was attended with any miſchievous conſequences. Accordingly on the morning after their leaving Payta he ordered all hands upon the quarter-deck, and addreſſing himſelf to thoſe who had been detached on ſhore, highly commended their behaviour, and thanked them for their ſervices on that occaſion. He then repreſented the reaſons urged by thoſe who had continued on board for an equal diviſion of the plunder; obſerved, that he thought their reaſons very concluſive, and the expectations of their comrades extremely juſt; he therefore inſiſted that not only the private men, but all the officers who had aſſiſted in taking the place, ſhould produce the whole of their plunder immediately upon the quarter-deck, in order to be impartially divided amongſt the whole crew in proportion to their rank; but to prevent thoſe who had it in their poſſeſſion from murmuring at this diminution of their ſhare, the Commodore added, that as an encouragement to others who might be hereafter employed in the like ſervices, he would give

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his entire ſhare to be diſtributed amongſt thoſe who had been detached for the attack of the place.

Thus was this troubleſome affair determined to the general ſatisfaction of the ſhip's company, except a few who were incapable of diſcerning the force of equity, or were too avaricious to be willing to part with any ſhare of what they had once got in their poſſeſſion. The next morning they obſerved the Glouceſter with a ſmall veſſel in tow, and learned from captain Mitchel, that in the whole time of his cruize, he had taken only two prizes, one of which was a ſmall ſnow, whoſe cargo conſiſted of wine, brandy, and olives in jars, with about 7000 *l.* in ſpecie; and the other a launch or large boat, which the Glouceſter's barge came up with near the ſhore, the priſoners on board of which had alledged, that they were very poor, and that their lading conſiſted only of cotton; but the circumſtance in which the barge ſurprized them, ſeemed to prove their being more wealthy than they pretended; for the Glouceſter's people found them at dinner upon pigeon-pye, ſerved up in ſilver-diſhes. However, the officer who commanded the barge, on his opening ſeveral of the jars on board, and finding nothing in them but cotton, was ready to believe the account given him by the priſoners; but the cargo being taken on board the Glouceſter, all were agreeably ſurprized to find, that the whole was a very extraordinary piece of package, and that in every jar there was concealed amongſt the cotton, a conſiderable quantity of double doubloons and dollars, to the amount in the whole of near 12,000 *l.* This treaſure was going to Payta, and belonged to the merchants, who were the proprietors of the greateſt part of the money taken at that town.

Captain

Captain Mitchel had alſo been in ſight of two or three other of the enemy's ſhips which had eſcaped him. One of which, there was reaſon to believe, was of immenſe value.

The ſquadron being now joined by the Glouceſter and her prize, it was reſolved to ſteer as ſoon as poſſible for the ſouthern parts of California, or to the adjacent coaſt of Mexico, in order to cruize for the Manila galleon, which was known to be at ſea, bound to the port of Acapulco; and as they were now in the middle of November, and that ſhip did not uſually arrive till the middle of January, they did not doubt of getting on that ſtation, time enough to intercept her, notwithſtanding they found it neceſſary to take in a freſh ſupply of water at the iſland of Quibo, which is ſituated at the mouth of the bay of Panama; and being now eight ſail in company continued ſailing to the northward; but on their arriving at Cape Blanco in four degrees 15 minutes ſouth latitude, it was found that the Solidad was far from anſwering the character given her of being a prime ſailor; and ſhe and the Santo Tereſa delaying the ſquadron, the Commodore ordered them both to be cleared of every thing that might be of uſe to the reſt of the ſhips, and then to be burnt; and having given proper inſtructions to the Glouceſter, and the other prizes, the Centurion proceeded in her courſe for Quibo.

On the 22d in the morning, they came in ſight of the iſland of Plata; at three in the afternoon they were within three miles of point Manta, and there being a town of the ſame name in the neighbourhood, captain Mitchel took that opportunity of ſending away ſeveral of his priſoners from the Glouceſter in the Spaniſh launch. The

boats were now daily employed in diſtributing proviſions on board the prizes, to complete their ſtock for ſix months. One of the Manila ſhips being ſaid to be of immenſe ſize, the carpenters were ordered to fix eight ſtocks in the main and foretops of the Centurion, which were properly fitted for the mounting of ſwivel guns, in order that ſhe might be the better prepared to give her a warm reception.

On the 23d they paſſed the equinoctial, when ſtanding towards the iſthmus, they had not only an extraordinary alteration of the climate; but frequent calms and heavy rains, which ſoon made it neceſſary to chaulk the decks and ſides of the Centurion, to prevent the rain from running into her.

On the 3d of December in the evening, they caſt anchor at the iſland of Quibo, which they found to be extremely convenient for wooding and watering, ſince the trees grow cloſs to the high-water-mark, and a large rapid ſtream of freſh water runs over the ſandy beach into the ſea, ſo that they were little more than two days in laying in all the wood and water they wanted.

The whole iſland, excepting one part of it, is of a very moderate height, and its ſurface is covered with a continual wood, which preſerves its verdure all the year. Among the other trees, they found abundance of caſſia; but notwithſtanding the climate, and ſhelter afforded for birds, they ſaw no other but mackaws, parrots, and paroquets, but of the former there were prodigious flights. The animals of which there were moſt plenty, were monkeys and guanoes, which they frequently killed for food; but though they diſcovered many herds of deer, yet the difficulty of penetrating the woods, prevented

their

their coming near them, ſo that they killed but two during their ſtay. Their priſoners informed them, that the iſland abounded with tygers, but they never ſaw any of them; and alſo that there was frequently found in the woods a moſt miſchievous ſerpent, called the flying ſnake, which darted itſelf from the boughs of trees on either man or beaſt that came within its reach, and its ſting was believed to produce inevitable death. The ſea about the iſland is infeſted with a great number of alligators of an extraordinary ſize, and the people often obſerved a large kind of flat fiſh, jumping a conſiderable height out of the water, which they ſuppoſed to be the fiſh that is ſaid frequently to deſtroy the pearl divers, by claſping them in its fins, as they ariſe from the bottom; and they were told, that the divers now always armed themſelves with a ſharp knife, with which, when they are entangled, they diſengage themſelves from the fiſhes embraces, by ſticking it into the fiſhes belly.

While the ſhip lay at anchor, the Commodore went in a boat, attended by ſome of his officers, to examine a bay which lay to the northward, and afterwards ranged along the eaſtern ſide of the iſland. Whenever they landed in the courſe of this expedition, they generally found great plenty of excellent water, and a very rich ſoil. On the northeaſt point of the iſland, they diſcovered a natural caſcade, which ſeemed to ſurpaſs every thing of this kind that had ever been produced by human art or induſtry. It was a river of tranſparent water, about 40 yards wide, which rolled down a declivity of near 150 in length; the channel down which it flowed, was entirely compoſed of rock, both its ſides and bottom being made up of large detached blocks, by which

the courſe of the water was frequently interrupted; for in ſome parts it run ſloping with a rapid but uniform motion, while in others it rolled over the ledges of rocks, and fell with a perpendicular deſcent. All the neighbourhood of this ſtream was a fine wood, and even the huge maſſes of rock which over-hung the water and by their various projections formed the inequalities of the channel, was covered with lofty foreſt trees. While the Commodore with thoſe who accompanied him were attentively remarking the different blendings of the water, the rocks and the woods, there appeared, as if to heighten the beauty of the proſpect, a prodigious flight of mackaws, which hovering over this ſpot, and often wheeling and playing on the wing about it, afforded a moſt brilliant appearance by the glittering of the ſun on their variegated plumage.

In this expedition they diſcovered no inhabitants, but ſaw many huts upon the ſhore, and great heaps of ſhells, of fine mother-of-pearl, in different places, that were left by the pearl fiſhers from Panama, who often frequent this place in the ſummer ſeaſon; for the pearl oyſters, which are every way to be found in the bay of Panama, are ſo numerous at Quibo, that by advancing a very little way into the ſea, a perſon may ſtoop down and reach them from the bottom. They are uſually very large, and ſome of the officers opened them out of curioſity, in order to taſte, but found them very tough and unpalatable. Theſe oyſters are found at a conſiderable depth; for though what are taken by wading near the ſhore are of the ſame ſpecies, yet the pearls contained in them are few in number and very ſmall. It is alſo ſaid, that the pearl partakes in ſome degree of the quality of the bottom

tom on which the oyſter is lodged, ſo that if there be a muddy bottom, it renders the pearl dark and diſcoloured.

The buſineſs of taking up oyſters from great depths for the ſake of their pearls, is performed by negro ſlaves, of which the inhabitants of Panama and the neighbouring coaſt formerly kept great numbers. Theſe are ſaid not to be eſteemed compleat divers, till they have learned to protract their ſtay ſo long under water, that the blood guſhes out of his mouth, noſe and ears; but when this has once happened, it is ſaid they dive for the future with much greater eaſe than before. They have no apprehenſions that any ill conſequence can attend this violence offered to nature, ſince the bleeding generally ſtops of itſelf, and there is no danger of their ever being ſubject to it a ſecond time.

Though the pearl oyſter was unfit for food, yet that diſappointment was ſufficiently recompenſed by the turtle, which the ſea furniſhes at this iſland in the greateſt abundance. There are uſually reckoned four ſpecies of turtle, the logger head, the trunk turtle, the hawksbill, and the green turtle. The two firſt are rank and unwholeſome; the hawksbill, which produces the tortoiſeſhell is better than the other two, though but indifferent food; but the green turtle was generally eſteemed by the officers and ſailors, as affording the moſt delicious repaſt, and they had the moſt convincing proof of its being wholeſome, from their feeding upon it near four months, without feeling any ill effects from this new food. At this iſland they caught as many as they pleaſed, without the leaſt difficulty; for as they are an amphibious animal, they go on ſhore to lay their eggs, which they u-

ſually depoſit in a large hole in the ſand, juſt above high water mark, and after having covered them, leave them to be hatched by the heat of the ſun; they therefore ordered ſeveral men to go upon the beach, who had nothing more to do, than to turn them upon their backs, which prevented them from getting away, after which they brought them off at their leiſure; by this means they were plentifully ſupplied, while they ſtaid at the iſland, and carried a number of them to ſea, which was almoſt a conſtant ſupply for the whole crew, of freſh and palatable proviſions; for they generally weighing about 200 lb. weight each, theſe they took with them laſted till they had a freſh ſupply on the coaſt of Mexico, where they often ſaw great numbers of them in the heat of the day faſt aſleep, and floating on the ſurface of the water. Upon diſcovering them they generally ſent out a boat, in which was an expert diver, who, when the boat came within a few yards of the turtle, plunged into the water, and ariſing cloſe by the tail, ſeized the ſhell, and preſſing down the hinder parts, awakened the turtle, who ſtriking with its feet, ſupported by that motion both itſelf and the diver, till the boat came and took them both in. By which management, they never wanted turtle for the ſucceeding four months in which they continued at ſea; yet in ſeven months from their leaving Juan Fernandes to their anchoring in the harbour of Chequetan, they buried no more in the whole ſquadron than two men, which is an undoubted proof, that the turtle on which they fed for the laſt four months of that time, is at leaſt an innocent, if not a ſalutary food.

It is very remarkable, that notwithſtanding the ſcarci-

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ty of other proviſions, on ſome part of the coaſt of the South-Seas, a kind of food ſo very palatable, ſalubrious and plentiful as turtle, ſhould be eſteemed by the Spaniards as very unwholſome, and to be little leſs than poiſonous. They had ſome Indian and negro ſlaves on board, whom they kept to aſſiſt in navigating the ſhips, and theſe being poſſeſſed with the prejudices of the country they came from, were aſtoniſhed at ſeeing them feed on turtle, being fully perſuaded that it would prove mortal; but finding that none of them died, nor were in the leaſt diſordered by continuing the diet, they ventured to taſte it, and at laſt with great reluctance to eat it, though very ſparingly; but the reliſh growing upon them by degrees, they at laſt grew ſo fond of it, as to prefer it to every other kind of food, and often congratulated each other on the luxurious and plentiful repaſts it would always be in their power to procure when they ſhould return back to their country.

CHAP. VIII.

They ſail from Quibo to the coaſt of Mexico; cruize off the port of Acapulco for the Manila ſhip, and then ſail to the harbour of Chequetan.

HAVING left the iſland on the 9th of December in the morning, after having ſtaid there only three days, they again put to ſea in order to look for the Glouceſter, who had ſeparated from them at their firſt arrival, and the next day obſerved a ſmall ſail, to which they

gave chace, and coming up with her, took her. She was a bark from Panama, named the Jeſu Nazareno, and had nothing on board but a ton of rock ſalt, ſome oakum, and between 30 and 40 pounds in ſpecie. On the 12th of December they came up with the Glouceſter, who had ſprung her main top-maſt, and having ſcuttled and ſunk the Jeſu Nazareno, the Commodore delivered freſh inſtructions to the captains of the men of war and commanders of the prizes, appointing the rendezvouſes they were to make, and the courſes they were to ſteer in caſe of a ſeparation, in which they were directed to uſe all diſpatch in getting to the northward of Acapulco. Theſe orders being diſtributed to the ſhips, they had little doubt of ſoon arriving at their intended ſtation, as they expected to fall in with the regular trade wind; but to their great vexation they were baffled for near a month by tempeſtous weather, dead calms, and heavy rains, and at length began to deſpair of ſucceeding in the great purpoſe they had in view, that of intecepting the Manila galleon, which produced a general dejection; but at length their deſpondency was ſomewhat alleviated by a favourable change of the wind; upon which the Centurion took the Carmelo in tow, as the Glouceſter did the Carmin; and this wind which blew from the north-eaſt, the next day continued ſo briſk and ſteady, that they had no doubt of its being the trade wind. This revived their hopes, for though the uſual time of the galleon's arrival at Acapulco was already elapſed, they were ſo unreaſonable as to flatter themſelves that ſome accidental delay might have lengthened her paſſage.

On the 26th of January, being to the northward of Acapulco, they tacked and ſtood to the eaſtward, with a

view

view of making the land, which they expected to fall in with the 28th; but though the weather was then clear, they could not diſcern it. About ten at night the Centurion diſcovered a light on the larboard bow, and the Tryal's Prize, who was about a mile a-head, made a ſignal for ſeeing a ſail. As no body on board doubted but what they ſaw was a ſhip's light, they were all animated with a firm perſuaſion, that it was the Manila galleon; and what added to their alacrity, was their expectation of meeting with two of them inſtead of one; for they took it for granted, that the light in view was carried on the top of one ſhip, for the direction of her conſort. The Centurion therefore caſt off the Carmelo, and preſſed forward with all her canvaſs, making a ſignal for the Glouceſter to do the ſame; and thus they chaced the light, under the expectation of engaging within half an hour, ſometimes imagining the chace to be about a mile diſtant, and at others, within reach of their guns; for ſome on board poſitively aſſerted, that they could plainly diſcern her ſails. The Commodore himſelf was ſo fully perſuaded, that he ſhould ſoon come up with her, that he ſent for his firſt lieutenant, who commanded between the decks, and ordered him to ſee all the great guns loaded with two round of ſhot for the firſt broadſide, and after that with one round ſhot and one grape; and ſtrictly charged him not to ſuffer a gun to be fired till he ſhould give orders, which he told the lieutenant would not be till they arrived within piſtol ſhot of the enemy. In this conſtant and eager expectation, they continued all night, conſtantly preſuming that another quarter of an hour would bring them up with the Manila ſhip, whoſe wealth and that of her conſort, they now

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eſtimated by round millions; but alas! at day-break, they diſcovered, to their great diſappointment, that all this buſtle and expectation was occaſioned by a fire upon a mountain, which continued burning for ſeveral days afterwards, and was probably no more than a tract of ſtubble or heath ſet on fire for the purpoſe of agriculture.

On the 12th of February the Commodore diſpatched the barge in ſearch of the harbour of Acapulco, and to diſcover whether the galleon was arrived, which returned on the 19th, when the officers informed the Commodore, that they had diſcovered the harbour, and that having got within the iſland that lies at the mouth of it, they were in great ſuſpenſe what to do; but while they were ignorant of their being in the very place they ſought for, they diſcerned a ſmall light near the ſurface of the water, on which plying their paddles, and moving towards it as ſilently as poſſible, they found it to be a fiſhing canoe, which they ſurprized with three negroes who belonged to it, and who, at firſt, attempted to jump over-board, but they were prevented by preſenting a piece at them, on which they ſubmitted, and were taken into the barge; and the canoe was turned adrift againſt the face of a rock, where it would inevitably be daſhed to pieces by the fury of the ſea; which was done to deceive thoſe who might perhaps be ſent in ſearch of the canoe, who ſeeing only its remains, would immediately conclude that the people on board were drowned.

The Commodore having now theſe three negroes in his poſſeſſion, was ſoon ſatisfied about the moſt material points on which he had been long in ſuſpenſe. They told him that the galleon arrived at Acapulco on the 9th of

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January, old ſtile, but revived his hopes by adding, that ſhe had delivered her cargo, and was taking in water and proviſions in order to return; and that the viceroy of Mexico had by proclamation fixed her departure from Acapulco on the 14th of March, new ſtile. This laſt news gave great joy to the officers and ſailors, who had no doubt of her falling into their hands, and it would be of much greater advantage to ſeize her on her return than it would have been to have taken her before her arrival, as the ſpecie for which ſhe had ſold her cargo, and which ſhe would now have on board, would be much more valuable than the cargo itſelf, great part of which would be of no uſe to the Engliſh.

Being now ſatisfied that the day was fixed for the departure of the galleon from Acapulco, they waited with the utmoſt impatience for the important moment. As they received the intelligence by the return of the barge on the 19th of February, and as the galleon was not to ſail till the 3d of March, the Commodore, in order to prevent his being ſeen from the ſhore, reſolved to continue the greateſt part of the intermediate time, on his preſent ſtation to the weſtward of Acapulco; and during this interval, the ſailors were employed in ſcrubbing and cleanſing the ſhips bottoms, and in bringing them into the moſt advantageous trim.

On the firſt of March, the time for the departure of the galleon drawing nigh, the Commodore had all the ſhips ranged in a regular line, each ſhip being three leagues diſtant from the next, ſo that the Carmelo and the Carmin, which were the two extremes, were 12 leagues removed from each other; and as the galleon might doubtleſs be diſcerned at ſix leagues diſtance from either

either extremity, the whole ſweep of the ſquadron, within which nothing could paſs undiſcovered, was 24 leagues in extent; and yet they were ſo connected by ſignals, as to be eaſily and ſpeedily informed of what was ſeen in any part of the line. To prevent even the poſſibility of the galleon's eſcaping in the night, the two cutters belonging to the Centurion and Glouceſter were both manned and ſent in ſhore, and commanded to lie at four or five leagues diſtance from the entrance of the port, where, upon account of their ſmallneſs, it would be impoſſible to diſcover them; but in the night, they were to ſtand nearer to the harbour's mouth, and as the morning approached, to return back to their ſtation for the day. When the cutters ſhould diſcern the Manila ſhip, one of them was to return to the ſquadron to make a ſignal, whether the galleon ſtood to the eaſtward or the weſtward, while the other was to follow the galleon at a diſtance; and if it grew dark to direct the ſquadron in their chace by ſhewing falſe fires.

In ſhort, having taken all poſſible methods to prevent the Manila ſhip from eſcaping, they waited with the utmoſt impatience for the 3d of March; and that day no ſooner began to dawn, than every perſon on board had his eyes fixed towards Acapulco, and neither the duties of the men on board, nor the calls of hunger could eaſily divert them from it; but to their extreme vexation, both that day and the ſucceeding night paſſed over without any news of the galleon. They however flattered themſelves that ſome unforeſeen accident had occaſioned her departure to be deferred for a few days; which was not improbable, as it was uſual for the vice-roy to defer the time of her ſailing on the petition of the merchants

chants of Mexico. Thus they kept up their hopes and vigilance, and as the 7th of March was the beginning of paſſion-week, which is ſo ſtrictly obſerved by the Spaniards, that no ſhip is permitted to ſtir out of port, they deferred their expectations till the week following; but in a week's time, their eagerneſs greatly abated, a general dejection and deſpondency took place in its room, and the people began to be perſuaded, that the enemy had diſcovered their being on the coaſt. Indeed this opinion was but too juſt; for they afterwards learnt, that the barge had been ſeen from the ſhore, when ſhe had been ſent upon the diſcovery of the port of Acapulco; and as no embarkations but canoes ever frequented that coaſt, the Spaniards conſidered it as a ſufficient proof, that the Engliſh ſquadron was not for diſtant, and therefore ſtopt the galleons till the ſucceeding year.

The Commodore now formed a plan for the taking of Acapulco; but the town was too well defended, to be carried by an open attack, and therefore he propoſed to ſet ſail in the evening, time enough to arrive at the port in the night; and having boldly entered the harbour's mouth, he intended to have put 200 men on ſhore in his boats, who were immediately to attempt the fort, while he with his ſhips were employed in firing upon the town and the other batteries. But when he began to enquire into ſuch circumſtances as were neceſſary to be conſidered, in order to conduct the execution of this plan, he found it was attended with an inſuperable difficulty; for nearer in ſhore, there was always a dead calm for the greateſt part of the night, and towards morning, when the gales ſprung up, it conſtantly blew off the land, which rendered his arrival at Acapulco before day-light abſolutely impoſſible. How-

However, as there was yet no certain intelligence of their departure being deferred till the next year, the Commodore thought it prudent to continue cruizing on his preſent ſtation, as long as the neceſſary attention to his ſtores of wood and water, and to the proper ſeaſon for his paſſage to China would give him leave. The cutters returning on the 24th of March, from off their ſtation, and all the ſhips being now joined, the Commodore made a ſignal to ſpeak with their commanders: when enquiry being made into the ſtock of freſh water remaining on board the ſquadron, it was found neceſſary to quit the ſtation, in order to procure a freſh ſupply; and the harbour of Seguataneio or Chequetan, being the neareſt, it was reſolved to ſail thither; but leaſt the galleon, on having certain intelligence of their being at Chequetan, ſhould ſlip out to ſea, the Centurion's cutter, under the command of Mr. Hughes, the lieutenant of the Tryal's Prize, was ordered to cruize 24 days off the port of Acapulco, that if the galleon ſhould ſail in that interval, they might be ſpeedily informed of it.

The ſquadron now plied to the weſt to gain their intended port, but being often interrupted by ſtorms and adverſe currents, the men were employed in theſe intervals in taking the moſt valuable part of the cargoes out of the Carmelo and Carmin prizes, which the Commodore reſolved to deſtroy as ſoon as they were cleared. On the firſt of April they were advanced ſo far towards Seguataneio, that the Commodore thought proper to ſend out two boats to diſcover the watering place, when they being gone ſome days, their water was ſo ſhort, that had they not met with a daily ſupply of turtle, which prevented their being confined to ſalt proviſions, they

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muſt have ſuffered extremely in ſo warm a climate; but their uneaſineſs was happily ended, by the boats returning on the 5th of April, when they had not ten days water on board the whole ſquadron; having about ſeven miles to the weſt of the rocks of Seguataneio, met with a place fit for their purpoſe, which appeared to be the port of Chequetan; and theſe boats being ſent out again the next day, to ſound the harbour and its entrance, returned with the report that it was free from danger, on which the ſquadron immediately ſtood for it, and the Centurion and Glouceſter caſt anchor there the ſame evening.

CHAP. IX.

A deſcription of the harbour of Chequetan, and the adjacent country. The torpedo fiſh, and other animals and vegetables of the country, deſcribed. The Tryal's prize, the Carmelo, and the Carmin ſcuttled and burnt.

THE port of Chequetan is a place of conſiderable conſequence, ſince it is the only ſecure harbour except Acapulco in a vaſt extent of coaſt. It lies in 17°. 36. north latitude, and is about 30 leagues to the weſtward of Acapulco, from which laſt town there is a bank of ſand, which extends 18 leagues to the weſtward, againſt which the ſea breaks ſo violently, that it is impoſſible to land in any part of it with boats; yet the ground is ſo clean, that in the fair ſeaſon, ſhips may anchor at the diſtance of a mile or two from the ſhore. The land

which

which joins to this beach is generally low, planted with a great number of trees, and full of villages; and on the tops of ſeveral ſmall eminences, there are ſeveral watch-towers. The part which is cultivated extends ſome leagues back into the country, where it ſeems to be bounded by a chain of mountains, which on either ſide of Acapulco ſtretch to a conſiderable diſtance; and indeed the whole face of the country affords a very agreeable proſpect; but it is remarkable, that in all this extent, which appears the moſt populous and beſt planted of the whole coaſt, there are to be ſeen, neither boats nor canoes either for coaſting, fiſhing, or for pleaſure; which is probably occaſioned by all kinds of ſmall craft being prohibited by the government to prevent ſmuggling. There is no other method of finding this harbour at a conſiderable diſtance from the coaſt, than that of making it by the latitude. for there are ſo many ranges of mountains within land, riſing one upon the back of the other, that no drawings of the appearance of the coaſt can be in the leaſt depended upon when off at ſea, for every trifling change of diſtance, or variation of poſition, brings new mountains in view, and produces different proſpects.

As the country appeared to be ſo well peopled and cultivated, the Commodore was in hopes of eaſily procuring ſome freſh proviſions and other refreſhments, and therefore the morning after he came to an anchor, ordered a party of 40 men well armed, to march into the country to diſcover ſome town or village, and to ſettle a correſpondence with the inhabitants; for it was not doubted, that if this intercourſe was but once begun, he ſhould allure them to bring whatever fruits or freſh proviſions were in their power. Theſe men were directed to behave

with

with the greateſt circumſpection, and to ſhew as little appearance of any thing like hoſtility as poſſible. But this attempt to open an amiable traffic with the inhabitants, proved ineffectual; for towards the evening, this party returned greatly fatigued, by their unuſual exerciſe, and ſome of them ſo far ſpent, that they had fainted by the road, and were obliged to be brought back upon the ſhoulders of their companions. When they had proceeded near five miles from the harbour, the road divided between the mountains into two branches, one of which turned to the eaſt, and the other to the weſt; when agreeing to continue their march along the eaſtern road, it led them into a large plain, on one ſide of which they diſcovered a centinel on horſeback with a piſtol in his hand. When they firſt ſaw him, they ſuppoſed he was aſleep, for his horſe ſtarted at the glittering of their arms, and ſuddenly turning round, run off with his maſter, who though he was very near being unhorſed, recovered his ſeat, and eſcaped with only the loſs of his hat and his piſtol, which he dropped on the ground. The party purſued him in hopes of diſcovering the village, or habitation to which he ſhould retreat; but after fatiguing themſelves in vain, ſoon loſt ſight of him.

Being unwilling to return without making ſome diſcovery, they followed the track they were in, till the heat of the day increaſing, and finding no water to quench their thirſt, they reſolved to return back; however, that no means might be left untried of procuring ſome intercourſe with the people, the officers ſtuck up ſeveral poles in the road, to which were affixed declarations in Spaniſh, in order to encourage the inhabitants to come to the harbour to traffic with the ſquadron, and

filled with the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of a kind reception, and faithful payment for all the proviſions they brought. But this meaſure, however prudent, was ineffectual, for none of the people came down to the ſhips during their continuance at the port of Chequetan.

Upon this occaſion, it is proper to obſerve, in order to give ſome idea of the timidity of the inhabitants of this country, that ſome time after the Commodore's arrival at Chequetan, he ſent lieutenant Brett, with two boats under his command, to examine the coaſt to the eaſtward; and particularly to make obſervations on the bay and watering-place of Pataplan. Mr. Brett was preparing to land with one of the boats towards the hill of Pataplan, when accidentally caſting his eyes acroſs the bay, he obſerved on the oppoſite ſtrand, three ſmall ſquadrons of horſe, which ſeemed to advance towards the place where he propoſed to land. Upon which, though he had but ſixteen men with him, he boldly cut off the boat, and ſtood over the bay, in order to face them, and was ſoon near enough to perceive that they were mounted on good horſes, and armed with carbines and lances. On ſeeing him thus advancing, they formed upon the beach, fired ſeveral diſtant ſhot at him as he drew near, and ſeemed determined to diſpute his landing, till at laſt the boat coming within a reaſonable diſtance from the moſt advanced ſquadron, Mr. Brett ordered his men to fire, when this reſolute cavalry immediately fled with great confuſion, through a ſmall opening into the wood. In this haſty flight, one of their horſes falling down, threw his rider, but both the man and horſe were ſoon up again, and followed the reſt. The two ſquadrons, were in the mean time calm ſpectators of the rout of their comrades;

trades; for having halted on Mr. Brett's firſt approach, they continued drawn up at a great diſtance behind, out of the reach of the ſhot. Had theſe men concealed themſelves till the boat's crew were landed, it is ſcarcely poſſible but they muſt all have fallen into their hands, as the Spaniards amounted to near 200, and the whole number with Mr. Brett was only ſixteen.

The Commodore, finding his attempts to prevail on the people to furniſh the ſquadron with neceſſaries unſucceſsful, deſiſted from any other endeavours of that kind, and the people were contented with what they could procure for themſelves in the neighbourhood of the port, where they caught breams, cavallies, ſoals, mullets, fiddle-fiſh, ſea eggs and lobſters; and in this place alone, they met with that remarkable fiſh called the torpedo, which is a flat fiſh, like a thorn-back, and ſo nearly reſembles the fiddle-fiſh, that it can be only diſtinguiſhed from it, by a brown circular ſpot, of the ſize of a crown piece near the center of its back. The torpedo produces very ſurprizing effects on the human frame. For whoever handles, or even ſets his foot upon it, is immediately ſeized with a numbneſs over his whole body, but more particularly in that limb, which was in immediate contaſt with it. Mr. Walter obſerves that he himſelf had a conſiderable degree of numbneſs conveyed to his right arm, by touching it for a ſhort time with a walking cane, and he makes no doubt but he would have been more ſenſibly affected, had not the fiſh been almoſt at the point of death, when he made the experiment; ſince it is obſervable, that this influence acts with moſt vigour upon the fiſh's being firſt taken out of the water, and entirely ceaſes as ſoon as it is dead, when

it may be handled, or even eaten without the leaſt inconvenience. The numbneſs of Mr. Walter's arm, upon this occaſion, diminiſhed gradually, ſo that he had ſome remains of it till the next day.

The principal animals they met with on ſhore were guanoes, with which the country abounds, and by ſome are reckoned delicious food. They ſaw no other beaſts of prey but alligators, none of which were very large. They were however convinced that there were many tygers in the woods, tho' none of them came in ſight, for every morning the prints of their feet were very viſible on the beach near the watering-place, but they apprehended no danger from them, ſince they were not near ſo fierce as the African or Aſiatic tygers, and are ſeldom if ever known to attack mankind. They had plenty of birds, and particularly pheaſants of various kinds, ſome of which were remarkably large, but they were all dry and taſteleſs food. They frequently killed parrots for food, and ſaw a great variety of ſmall birds.

They found great ſcarcity of fruits and vegetable refreſhments, and theſe were not of the beſt kinds. It is true, there were a few buſhes ſcattered about the woods, which ſupplied the ſquadron with limes, but the men could ſcarcely procure enough for their preſent uſe. There was alſo a ſmall plumb of an agreeable acid, which in Jamaica is called the hog-plumb, and another fruit called a papah, and theſe were the only fruits to be found in the woods; nor was there any other vegetable worth notice, except brook-lime, which grows near the freſh water banks in great quantities, though it was extremely bitter and unpalatable, yet as it was eſteemed an antiſcorbutic, they frequently fed upon it.

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During their ſtay at this place, an incident happened which proved the means of convincing their friends in England of their ſafety. From the harbour of Chequetan, there was but one narrow path, which led through the woods into the country, and was the only avenue by which the Spaniards could approach them, and therefore to prevent their being diſturbed by any ſudden attack of the enemy's horſe, and to hinder the people from ſtraggling ſingly into the country, where they might be ſurprized by the Spaniards, the Commodore cauſed ſeveral large trees to be felled, and laid upon one another acroſs the path, at ſome diſtance beyond the ſpring-head; and at this barricadoe, they conſtantly kept a guard, which had orders to let no perſon whatſoever paſs beyond their poſt. But notwithſtanding this precaution, Lewis Leger, the Commodore's cook, was miſſing; and he being a Frenchman, and under the ſuſpicion of being a Papiſt, it was at firſt concluded that he had deſerted, with a view of betraying all he knew to the enemy, though by the event this was found to be an ill grounded ſurmiſe; for he had been taken by ſome Indians, who had carried him priſoner to Acapulco, whence he was ſent to Mexico, and thence to Vera Cruz, where he was put on board a veſſel bound to Old Spain. But this veſſel being by ſome accident obliged to put into Lisbon, Leger eſcaped on ſhore, and was ſent from thence by the Britiſh conſul to England, where he brought the firſt authentic account of the Commodore's ſafety, and of his principal tranſactions in the South-Seas.

The account he gave of his ſeizure was, that he had rambled into the woods at ſome diſtance from the barricadoe, where he had attempted to paſs, but had been

ſtopt, and threatened to be puniſhed. That his principal view was to gather a quantity of limes for his maſter's ſtore; but while he was thus employed he was ſuddenly ſurprized by four Indians, who ſtripped him naked, and in that condition conducted him to Acapulco, where he was expoſed to the ſcorching heat of the ſun, which then ſhone with its greateſt violence: That his treatment in priſon at Mexico was very ſevere, and that all the time of his captivity, the Spaniards gave him a continual proof of the hatred they bare to all who endeavour to diſturb them on the coaſts of the South-Seas.

It muſt here be obſerved, that though the enemy never appeared in view, while the ſquadron lay at anchor in the harbour, yet thoſe on board could eaſily perceive, that large parties of them were encamped in the woods; for they could ſee their ſmokes; and juſt before they left the place, they ſeemed by the increaſe of their fires, to have had a large reinforcement.

They here compleated the unloading of the Carmelo and Carmin, out of which they only took the indigo, cocoa, and cochineal, with ſome iron for ballaſt, though they did not amount to the tenth of their cargoes; and the unloading of theſe prizes, together with the wooding and watering being compleated, the Tryal's Prize, with the Carmelo and Carmin, were towed on ſhore, and ſcuttled on the 27th of April, and a quantity of combuſtible materials were diſtributed in their upper works; the next morning the Centurion and Glouceſter weighed anchor, when having reached the offing, one of the boats was diſpatched back to ſet fire to the prizes, which was accordingly executed.

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This being done, a canoe was left fixed to a grapnel in the midſt of the harbour, in which was a bottle well corked, containing a letter to Mr. Hughes, who commanded the cutter, which had been ordered to cruize before the port of Acapulco, when the ſquadron quitted that ſtation. This letter directed Mr. Hughes to return to his former ſtation, where he would find Mr. Anſon, who reſolved to cruize for him there a certain number of days, after which it was added, that the Commodore would return to the ſouthward to join the reſt of the ſquadron. Theſe laſt words were inſerted to deceive the Spaniards, in caſe they got the canoe into their poſſeſſion, as they afterwards learned they did, but could not impoſe on Mr. Hughes, who was ſenſible that the Commodore had no other ſquadron to join, nor the leaſt intention of ſteering back to Peru.

As they had no farther views in the American ſeas, it was no ſmall mortification to them to be detained by the abſence of the cutter, the time of whoſe return was now conſiderably elapſed, and this made it neceſſary for them to ſail towards Acapulco in ſearch of her, and indeed it was ſuſpected that ſhe had been diſcovered from the ſhore, and that the governor of Acapulco had ſent out a ſufficient force to ſeize her, which was no very difficult enterprize, as ſhe carried but ſix hands. This however being only conjecture, the Commodore ſtood along the coaſt to the eaſtward in ſearch of her, and to prevent her paſſing by in the dark, brought to every night. The Glouceſter who was ſtationed a league nearer the ſhore than the Centurion, carried a light, which if the cutter kept along ſhore, ſhe would not fail of perceiving it, and as a farther ſecurity, both the Centurion and the Glou-

ceſter alternately ſhewed two falſe fires every half hour.

Being at length advanced within three leagues of Acapulco, without ſeeing the cutter, they gave her over for loſt, which, beſides their compaſſion for their ſhip-mates on account of what they might have ſuffered, was a misfortune which greatly concerned them on account of their ſcarcity of hands, ſince the cutter's crew conſiſted of ſix men, and the lieutenant, who were picked out for the ſervice, and were ſkilful ſeamen, and every one of tried reſolution. However, it was generally believed, that they were taken and carried into Acapulco; the Commodore, as he had many Spaniſh and Indian priſoners and ſick negroes in his poſſeſſion, wrote a letter the ſame day to the governor of that town, to inform him that he would releaſe them all, provided the governor would only return the cutter's crew. This letter was carried by a Spaniſh officer, who was furniſhed with a launch belonging to one of the prizes, and a crew of ſix other priſoners, who gave their parole for their return. The Spaniſh officer alſo carried with him a petition ſigned by all the other priſoners, beſeeching the governor to comply with the terms propoſed for their liberty.

From the number of the priſoners, and the quality of ſome of them, it was not doubted but the governor would readily agree to Mr. Anſon's propoſal; and therefore they kept near the land in order to receive an anſwer at the limited time; but both that day and the day following, they were driven ſo far out to ſea, that they could not expect any anſwer to reach them, and the fourth day after the propoſal was ſent, they were four-

teen

teen leagues from the harbour of Acapulco; but the wind being favourable, they preſſed forward with all their ſail, and hoped to get within the land that afternoon.

While they were thus ſtanding, the centinel from the maſt-head, called out that he ſaw a boat under ſail at a conſiderable diſtance to the ſoutheaſt. This they did not doubt contained the governor's anſwer to the Commodore's meſſage, and inſtantly edged towards her; but on their nearer approach, they found to their unſpeakable joy, that it was their own cutter. While at a diſtance they imagined that ſhe had been diſcharged by the governor out of the port of Acapulco; but when ſhe drew nearer, the pale and meagre countenances of the crew, the length of their beards, and the feeble tone of their voices convinced every one that they had endured much greater hardſhips than they could have ſuffered, even from the ſeverities of a Spaniſh priſon. They were obliged to be helped into the ſhip, and be inſtantly put to bed; but by reſt, and the nourriſhing diet with which they were plentifully ſupplied from the Commodore's table, they recovered their health and vigour.

Theſe poor men had kept the ſea the whole time of their abſence, which was about ſix weeks. When they had finiſhed their cruize before Acapulco, they begun to ply to the weſtward in order to join the ſquadron, but a ſtrong adverſe current forced them down the coaſt to the eaſtward, and at length their water being all expended, they were obliged to ſearch the coaſt farther to the eaſtward in queſt of a convenient landing-place, in order to get a freſh ſupply. But in this diſtreſs they ran upwards

wards of * 80 leagues to the leeward, but every where found ſo large a ſurf, that there was not the leaſt poſſibility of their landing. Some days they paſſed in this dreadful ſituation, during which they had no other means of allaying their thirſt, than catching turtle and ſucking their blood, till at laſt the heat of the climate rendering their ſufferings inſupportable, they abandoned themſelves to deſpair, from the firm belief, that they ſhould periſh by the moſt terrible of all deaths; but in this dreadful exigence, providence ſent them a moſt unexpected relief, for there fell ſo heavy a rain, that on ſpreading their ſails horizontally, and on putting bullets in the centers of them to draw them to a point, they caught as much water as filled all their caſks, and immediately upon this happy ſupply, being favoured by a ſtrong current, they ſtood to the weſtward in queſt of the Commodore, and joined the Centurion in leſs than fifty hours, after the abſence of forty three days.

Mr. Anſon now reſolved not to diſappoint the hopes of the priſoners; but to reſtore them to the liberty he had promiſed them, and therefore, they were all immediately embarked in two launches which had belonged to the prizes; and leſt the wind ſhould prove unfavourable, they were allowed a ſtock of water and proviſions. Thoſe releaſed were fifty ſeven in number, the greateſt part of them being Spaniards, and the reſt Indians and ſick negoes; but as the crews were very weak, Mr. Anſon kept the ſtouteſt of the negroes, a few Indians and Mulattoes. They afterwards learnt, that the two launches arrived

* The Buccaneer writers have had the aſſurance to pretend that there are harbours and convenient watering-places within theſe limits.

ſafe

ſafe at Acapulco, where all the priſoners extolled the humanity they had been treated with. But before their arrival, the governor it ſeems had returned an obliging anſwer to the Commodore's letter, and at the ſame time ſent out two boats laden with the choiceſt refreſhments, and proviſions, that could be procured at Acapulco: but the boats not finding the Engliſh ſhips, were at length obliged to return, after meeting with a ſtorm, in which they were forced to throw all their proviſions overboard.

CHAP. X.

The Centurion and Glouceſter depart for China. and again loſe many hands by the ſcurvy. The Glouceſter diſabled by a ſtorm and burnt. Their arrival at Tinian. A deſcription of that iſland. The Centurion drove out to ſea.

THEIR ſending away the priſoners was the laſt tranſaction on the American coaſt; for immediately on their parting with them the Centurion and Glouceſter made ſail for the ſouth-weſt with a view of meeting with the north-eaſt trade wind, which the accounts of former writers had taught them to expect at the diſtance of 70 or 80 leagues from the land, and on the 6th of May, they for the laſt time loſt ſight of the mountains of Mexico, with the hopes of reaching the eaſtermoſt iſles of Aſia in two months. Notwithſtanding all their

their endeavours to come in with the trade winds by getting into the latitude of 13 or 14 degrees north, where the Pacific Ocean is moſt uſually croſſed, all their efforts proved unſucceſsful, ſo that it was ſeven weeks from their leaving the coaſt, till they got into the true trade wind. By this time both the ſhips became extremely crazy and ſoon after a ſpring was diſcovered in the foremaſt of the Centurion; and no ſooner was it ſecured by the carpenter's fiſhing it, than the Glouceſter made a ſignal of diſtreſs, and informed the Commodore that he had ſo dangerous a ſpring in the main-maſt, that ſhe could not carry any ſail upon it, and that being exceſſively rotten, it was found neceſſary to cut part of it away. Theſe accidents occaſioning delay, and the ſcurvy beginning to make freſh havock among the people, they began to be in the greateſt anxiety about their future ſafety, and to preſent before their eyes the melancholy proſpect of either dying with the ſcurvy, or of periſhing with the ſhip for want of hands to navigate her. They had indeed been willing to believe, that in this warm climate, ſo different from that they had felt in paſſing round Cape Horn, the violence of this diſeaſe and its fatality might be mitigated. It has been generally preſumed that ſupplies of water and freſh proviſions effectually prevented this diſtemper, and that keeping the ſhips clean and airy between decks, were even alone ſufficient to prevent the ſcurvy, or to mitigate its virulence. But though they had a conſiderable ſtock of freſh proviſions aboard, which were the hogs and fowls taken at Payta, though they almoſt daily caught abundance of dolphins, albicores, and bonitos, and the unſettled ſeaſon that deprived them of the benefit of the trade wind proved ſo

rainy,

rainy, that they were enabled to fill their water-caſks as faſt as they were emptied, and each man had five pints of water conſtantly allowed him every day; though freſh proviſions were diſtributed amongſt the ſick, and the whole crew often fed upon fiſh, and though during the latter part of the run they kept all their ports open, and took uncommon pains in ſweetening the ſhips, yet nothing could ſtop the progreſs or abate the malignity of the diſeaſe.

At length upon their reaching the trade wind, which ſettled between the north and eaſt, it ſeldom blew with ſuch ſtrength, but that the Centurion might have carried all her ſmall ſails abroad without the leaſt danger, ſo that ſhe might have run down the latitude apace, but the Glouceſter, by loſing the beſt part of her main-maſt, ſailed ſo heavily, that the Centurion loſt little leſs than a month by attending upon her; and at length being entirely diſabled by a ſtorm, the Commodore, after having her examined ſent an order to captain Mitchel to put his people on board the Centurion, as expeditiouſly as poſſible, which was immediately performed, and it was with the greateſt difficulty, that the prize-money that the Glouceſter had taken in the South-Seas, was ſecured and ſent on board the Centurion; but the prize-goods in the Glouceſter, which amounted to ſeveral thouſand pounds value, were entirely loſt, nor could any more proviſions be got out, than five caſks of flour, three of which were ſpoiled by the ſalt water. When this was performed, her crew were ſo greatly reduced by the ſcurvy, that ſhe had only 77 men, 18 boys and two priſoners alive, out of which number, there were no more than 16 men and 11 boys able to keep the deck, and ſe-

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veral of theſe were very ill. The Glouceſter was cleared of every thing that was propoſed to be removed on the 15th of Auguſt, and then ſet on fire: but ſhe continued burning the whole night, ſo that though her guns fired ſucceſſively as the flames reached them, yet ſhe did not blow up till ſix in the morning, when the Centurion was about four leagues diſtant. The report ſhe made was but ſmall, though the blaſt produced a very black pillar of ſmoke, which ſhot up to a conſiderable height in the air.

The Centurion being now freed from the delays occaſioned by the frequent diſaſters which happened to the Glouceſter, might have been expected to have proceeded much briſker than ſhe had hitherto done; but the people on board that ſhip had ſtill greater diſtreſſes to ſtruggle with; for the ſtorm, which had proved ſo fatal to that veſſel, had driven them to the northward of their intended courſe, and the current ſetting the ſame way after the weather had abated, had forced them a degree or two farther, ſo that they were near four degrees to the north of the parallel they had propoſed to keep, in order to reach the iſland of Guam, and as they were ignorant how near they were to the meridian of the Ladrones, they apprehended that they might be driven to the leeward of them by the current without perceiving them. In which caſe, the only land they could make, would be ſome of the eaſtern parts of Aſia, where the weſtern monſoon, being in its full force, it would be impoſſible for them to get in; and indeed, they were in ſuch a languiſhing condition, that they could expect nothing but their being deſtroyed by the ſcurvy, long before they could compleat ſo extenſive a navigation. For now,

now, no day paſſed in which they did not bury eight or ten, and ſometimes twelve of their men, and thoſe who had ſtill continued healthy begun to ſicken apace. To add to their diſtreſs, they had a conſiderable leak, which, however, was at laſt diſcovered, and though it was found impoſſible to ſtop it, it was at length reduced.

They had conſidered the calm during which the currents had driven them to the north, as a dreadful misfortune; but a gale ſpringing up from the ſouth-weſt, rendered their condition ſtill worſe, as it was directly oppoſite to the courſe they deſired to ſteer. However, on the 22d of Auguſt, they had the ſatisfaction to find that the current was ſhifted, and ſet them to the ſouthward, and the next morning at day-break, they were cheared with the ſight of two iſlands to the weſt. As they had till then been ſeized with an univerſal dejection, from their almoſt deſpairing of ever again ſeeing land, this diſcovery raiſed their drooping ſpirits, and gave them inexpreſſible joy. The neareſt of theſe iſlands was Anatacan, which appeared to be full 15 leagues diſtance, and ſeemed to be high land, the other was the iſland of Serigan, which had the appearance of a rock. They were very impatient to get in with the neareſt iſland, where they hoped to find anchoring ground, and refreſhment for their ſick; but the wind proving variable, they advanced but ſlowly. However, the next day at noon, they were within four miles of Anatacan, when the boat was ſent out to examine the anchoring ground, and the produce of the place, but in the evening when the boat returned, they were informed, that there was no road for a ſhip to anchor in; that ſome of the crew had with difficulty landed, and found that the

ground

ground was every where covered with a kind of wild cane or ruſh; that they had ſeen groves of cocoa-nut trees; but that they had ſeen no water. This account occaſioned a general melancholy, and their deſpondency was increaſed, when as they were plying under their top-ſails, in order to get nearer to the iſland, with an intention of ſending the boat on ſhore to get cocoa-nuts for the refreſhment of the ſick, the wind blew ſo hard off the ſhore, that they were driven too far to the ſouthward to venture to ſend off their boat; and now the only means of preſerving them from periſhing, were their falling in with ſome other of the Ladrone iſlands. But as their knowledge of them was extremely imperfect, they were to truſt entirely to chance for their guidance.

On the 26th of Auguſt in the morning, they loſt ſight of the iſland of Anatacan, dreading that it was the laſt iſland that they ſhould ever ſee; but the next morning they diſcovered to the eaſtward, three other iſlands, at between 10 and 14 leagues diſtance, which were the iſlands of Saypan, Tinian, and Aguigan, upon which they immediately ſteered towards Tinian, the middlemoſt of the three; but had ſuch a calm, that though they were aſſiſted by the currents, they were the next morning advanced no nearer than within five leagues of it. They however kept on their courſe, and about ten o'clock perceived a proa under ſail between Tinian and Aguigan. As this gave them reaſon to believe that theſe iſlands were inhabited, and they well knew that the Spaniards had always an armed force at Guam, they muſtered all their hands that were capable of ſtanding to their arms, in order to diſguiſe their wretched circumſtances, and the more eaſily to procure intelligence, ſhewed.

ed Spaniſh colours, and hoiſted a red flag at the fore-top-maſt-head, hoping by this means to make the Centurion paſs for the Manila galleon, and to decoy ſome of the inhabitants on board. At three in the afternoon, the Commodore ſent the cutter to find out a proper birth for the ſhip, and it was ſoon perceived, that a proa taking the Centurion for the Manila ſhip, put off from the iſland to meet the cutter, and the cutter returning with the proa in tow, the pinnace was inſtantly ſent to bring the priſoners on board. Thoſe taken were a Spaniard and two Indians, and the Spaniard being immediately examined, his account of the iſland ſurpaſſed their moſt ſanguine hopes. He informed them that it was uninhabited, which, conſidering their defenceleſs condition, was of great conſequence to them; and yet, there were wanting but few of the accommodations that might be procured in the moſt cultivated country. There was plenty of good water, and an incredible number of cattle, hogs, and poultry, running wild, and all of them excellent in their kind; that the woods afforded great plenty of lemons, limes, ſweet and ſour oranges, and cocoa-nuts, beſides a fruit peculiar to thoſe iſlands, which ſerved inſtead of bread, and that the the Spaniards at Guam made uſe of the iſland as a ſtore for ſupplying the garriſon; on which account, he was ſent thither with two Indians to jerk beef, which he was to carry to Guam in a ſmall bark that lay at anchor near the ſhore.

This account was received with inexpreſſible joy, and they were now near enough to perceive large herds of cattle feeding in different parts of the iſland, and the appearance of the ſhore would not ſuffer them to doubt of the reſt of his narration. The proſpect of the country,

inſtead of reſembling a place uninhabited, and without cultivation, ſeemed to be laid out with great ſkill in ſpacious lawns, and ſtately woods, and the whole ſo artfully combined, and ſo judiciouſly adapted to the ſlopes of the hills, and the inequalities of the ground, as to produce a more ſtriking effect, and to do honour to the invention of the contriver. Thus were they providentially brought to this delightful iſland, by means which they at firſt ſight had conſidered as the greateſt of misfortunes; for had they not been driven by thoſe contrary winds and currents which had filled them with the moſt terrible apprehenſions, to the northward of their courſe, they would in all probability have miſſed of this ſpot, where alone, all their wants could be fully relieved, the ſick recovered, and their enfeebled crew once more refreſhed, and enabled to purſue their voyage.

The Commodore, being now ſollicitous to hinder the governor of Guam from obtaining intelligence of his arrival, reſolved to endeavour, if poſſible, to prevent the eſcape of the Indians, and therefore diſpatched the pinnace to ſecure the bark, which he was told was the only veſſel at the iſland, and about eight in the evening, they caſt anchor in 22 fathom; but though the weather was almoſt calm, and all the vigour and ſpirit poſſeſſed by the crew were exerted on their going to take poſſeſſion of this little terreſtrial paradiſe, they were ſo weakened by the crews of the cutter and pinnace being ſent on ſhore, that they were full five hours in furling the ſails; and even including thoſe who were abſent with the boats, and ſome Indians and negroes, all the hands they could muſter, capable of ſtanding at a gun, were only 71, moſt of whom were incapable of duty, except on extraordina-

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ry occaſions, and theſe were all that could be collected from the united crews of the Centurion, the Glouceſter, the Tryal, and Anna Pink, which conſiſted of about 1000 hands on their departure from England.

As the Commodore was not certain what oppoſition might be made by the Indians on the iſland, he ſent a party well armed on ſhore the next morning to ſecure the landing place, which was done without the leaſt difficulty. For the Indians having the night before perceived by the ſeizure of the bark, that they were enemies, immediately fled into the woods. This party found on ſhore many huts, which ſaved the ſailors the trouble of erecting tents; and one of thoſe, which was uſed for a ſtore-houſe, being 20 yards long and 15 broad, was inſtantly cleared of ſome jerked beef, converted into an hoſpital, and as ſoon as it was ready, the ſick, who amounted to 128, were brought on ſhore. Numbers of theſe were ſo helpleſs, that the men were obliged to carry them from the boats to the hoſpital upon their ſhoulders, in which humane employment the Commodore again, and every one of the officers, without diſtinction, were engaged; but notwithſtanding the extreme debility of the greateſt part of the ſick, they in a ſurprizing manner ſoon felt the ſalutary influence of the land; for tho' 21 men were buried on that and the following day, yet during the whole two months in which they ſtaid there, they did not loſe ten men. For the ſick reaped ſuch benefit from the fruits of the iſland, and in particular thoſe of the acid kind, that within a week moſt of them were ſo recovered, as to be able to move about without aſſiſtance.

The iſland of Tinian lies in the latitude of 15°. 8′.

north, and in 114°. 50′. weſt longitude from Acapulco. It is about 12 miles in length, and half as much in breadth. The land riſes in gentle ſlopes from the beach to the middle of the iſland; but its aſcent is frequently interrupted by valleys of an eaſy deſcent, many of which wind irregularly through the country. Theſe valleys, and the gradual ſwellings of the ground, to which their different combinations gave riſe, are beautifully diverſified by the mutual approach of woods and lawns, which border upon each other, and in large tracts traverſe the iſland. The woods are compoſed of tall and ſpreading trees, moſt of which are worthy of being admired, either for their fruit or for their beauty. While the lawns are generally of a conſiderable breadth, and covered with a clean and uniform turf, compoſed of a very fine trefoil, intermixed with a variety of flowers. In many places the woods are open, and free from all buſhes and underwood. So that on the borders of the lawns, neither ſhrubs nor weeds are to be ſeen, and the neatneſs of the adjacent turf is frequently extended to a conſiderable diſtance under the hollow ſhade formed by the trees. Hence aroſe a great variety of the moſt elegant and entertaining proſpects, according to the different blendings of theſe woods and lawns as they ſpread themſelves thro' the valleys, and along the ſlopes and declivities with which the place abounds. The animals that enliven the landſkips, in ſome meaſure partake of the romantic caſt of the iſland, and are a great addition to the beauty of the proſpects; for the cattle are all of them milk white except their ears, which are generally black or brown, and it is not uncommon to ſee ſome hundreds of theſe feeding together in a large meadow; and though there

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are no inhabitants, yet the noiſe, and frequent appearance of domeſtic poultry, which in great numbers range the woods, greatly contribute to the chearfulneſs and beauty of the place, by perpetually exciting the idea of the neighbourhood of farms and villages.

The cattle at Tinian were computed to amount to at leaſt 10,000, and as they were not at all ſhy, the crew of the Centurion found no difficulty in getting near them. They at firſt brought them down by ſhooting them; but afterwards, when by accidents that will be hereafter mentioned, they were obliged to husband their ammunition, the ſailors eaſily ran them down. Their fleſh was extremely well taſted, and was thought to be more eaſily digeſted than any they had yet met with. The fowls too, which were extremely good, were alſo run down with little trouble, as they could ſcarce fly above an hundred yards at a flight, and were then ſo fatigued, that they could not readily riſe again, ſo that being aſſiſted by the openneſs of the woods, they were always able to take what number they pleaſed. And that no delicacies might be wanting, they were furniſhed with great plenty of wild fowl; for near the center of the iſland, there were two conſiderable pieces of freſh water, which abounded with duck, teal, and curlews; and the whiſtling plover was alſo found there in prodigious plenty. They here likewiſe found abundance of wild hogs, which were moſt excellent food, but being extremely fierce, the ſailors were obliged either to ſhoot them, or to hunt them with ſome large dogs they found upon the iſland, and which belonged to the detachment ſent to provide proviſions for the garriſon of Guam; and as theſe dogs had been trained to the killing of wild hogs, they rea-

dily followed the ſailors, and hunted for them; but notwithſtanding their being of a large and bold breed, the hogs fought with ſuch fury, that they at length deſtroyed the greateſt part of them.

This iſland was alſo of extreme advantage, on account of its fruits and vegetables, which were moſt happily adopted to the cure of the ſea ſcurvy; for the woods produced ſweet and ſour oranges, limes, guavoes, vaſt quantities of cocoa nuts, with the cabbages growing on the ſame tree, and a peculiar kind of fruit, to be found only in theſe iſlands, called by the Indians Rhyma, but by the Centurion's people the bread fruit; for it was conſtantly eaten by them inſtead of bread, and ſo univerſally preferred to it, that none of the ſhip's bread was expended during their ſtay on the iſland. It grows upon a pretty lofty tree, which near the top divides into large and ſpreading branches; the leaves, which are generally from a foot to eighteen inches in length, are of a remarkable deep green, and notched about the edges. The fruit which is found indifferently on all parts of the branches, is rather of an oval form than round, is covered with a rough rind, and is uſually ſeven or eight inches long, and each of them grows ſingly, and not in cluſters. It is fitteſt to be uſed when green; but full grown, and being roaſted in the embers, has ſome diſtant reſemblance to the taſte of an artichoke's bottom, and is, like that, of a ſoft and ſpungy nature; but as it ripens it becomes ſofter, turns yellow, and has a luſcious taſte, and agreeable ſmell, not unlike a ripe peach; however, it is then eſteemed unwholeſome, and is ſaid to produce fluxes. Mr. Dampier, to whom our author refers for a more particular deſcription, ſays, that it is as large as

a good ſized twopenny loaf, and that the inſide is ſoft, tender, white and crummy like bread, and if eaten in twenty four hours after it is plucked, has a ſweet and pleaſant taſte; and that this excellent fruit is in ſeaſon eight months in the year. This iſland alſo affords many other vegetables, proper for the cure of that dreadful diſeaſe they had ſo long laboured under, as ſcurvy graſs, ſorrel, mint, dandelion, creeping purſlan, and water melons, of all which, together with the freſh proviſions, they fed with great eagerneſs, being prompted to it by the ſtrong inclination which the ſea-ſcurvy never fails to excite for thoſe powerful remedies.

It may ſeem ſurprizing, that this beautiful iſland, ſo elegantly furniſhed with the neceſſaries and luxuries of life, ſhould be entirely void of inhabitants. To remove this difficulty, it muſt be obſerved, that in ſomething leſs than fifty years before Mr. Anſon's arrival, it was a populous country, and is ſaid to have contained 30,000 ſouls, but a ſickneſs raging at Tinian, Rota, and Guam, all of which were full of inhabitants; the Spaniards to recruit the people at Guam, who were greatly diminiſhed by the mortality, forced all the inhabitants of Tinian to remove thither, where they languiſhed after their native iſland, till in a few years the greateſt part of them died of grief. Theſe poor Indians might reaſonably have expected, from their being placed at ſuch an immenſe diſtance from Spain, to have eſcaped the cruelty which had occaſioned the deſtruction of great part of the weſtern world, but the only advantage they received from this diſtance, was their periſhing an age or two later.

The iſland ſtill affords remains, which ſhow it to have been once extremely populous, for in all parts of it,

there are many ruins of a very remarkable kind, which generally conſiſt of two rows of pyramidical pillars, at about twelve feet diſtance, each pillar in the row, ſtanding about ſix feet from the next. Theſe pillars are almoſt five feet ſquare at the baſe, they are about thirteen feet high, and on the top of each is a ſemi-globe, with a flat ſurface upwards; both the pillars and ſemi-globe are ſolid, and compoſed of ſand and ſtone cemented together, and plaiſtered over. The priſoners informed the Engliſh, that theſe were the foundations of buildings ſet apart only for thoſe Indians who had engaged in ſome religious vow; and indeed monaſtic inſtitutions are often to be met with in Pagan nations; but if theſe ruins were originally the baſis of the common dwelling houſes of the natives, even in this caſe, their numbers muſt be conſiderable, ſince in many parts of the iſland, they are extremely thick planted, and are a ſufficient proof of the multitude of its former inhabitants.

It muſt not be omitted, that all the above advantages enjoyed by this iſland, were much enhanced by the healthineſs of its climate, by the breezes that almoſt conſtantly prevailed, and the frequent ſhowers with which it was ſprinkled, which were uſually of a very ſhort and almoſt momentary duration. The ſalubrity of the air had a ſurpriſing effect in ſtrengthening both the appetite and digeſtion. It was here very remarkable, that even thoſe of the officers, who every where elſe had been very temperate eaters, and who, beſides a ſlight breakfaſt, uſed to make only one moderate meal a day, ſeemed here tranſformed into gluttons; for inſtead of one reaſonable meal upon fleſh, they were now hardly ſatisfied with three, each of which was ſo prodigious, that at another place, it

would

would have produced a fever or a ſurfeit; and yet their digeſtion was ſo agreeable to the keenneſs of their appetites, that they were neither diſordered nor overloaded by this uncommon repletion.

The principal inconvenience attending thoſe who reſide in the iſland, ariſes from the great number of muſcatoes, and many other ſpecies of flies, together with a kind of tick, which though it principally fixes on the cattle, would frequently fall upon the limbs and bodies of the men, and if not removed in time, would bury its head under the ſkin, and raiſe a painful inflammation. The Centurion's people alſo found there, ſcorpions and centipedes, which they ſuppoſed to be venomous, though they received no injury from them.

However, the moſt conſiderable exception to this place, is the inconvenience of the road, which, in ſome ſeaſons of the year, affords but little ſecurity for a ſhip at anchor. The only proper anchoring place for ſhips of burden is at the ſouth weſt end of the iſland, where the Centurion anchored in 20 and 22 fathom water, oppoſite to a ſandy bay, about a mile and a half diſtant from the ſhore; but the bottom of this road being full of ſharp pointed coral rocks, it has a very unſafe anchorage from the middle of June, to the middle of October, which is the ſeaſon of the weſtern monſoons: and what adds to this danger, is the extraordinary rapidity of the tide of flood, which ſets to the ſouth eaſt between this iſland, and Aguigan. But in the remaining eight months of the year, there is ſuch a conſtant ſeaſon of ſettled weather, that if the cables are well armed, there is ſcarcely any danger of their being ever rubbed. But to return to the employment of the Centurion's people on ſhore.

While

While they were landing the ſick, four of the Indians on the iſland ſurrendered themſelves to the Commodore, ſo that he had eight now in his cuſtody. One of theſe four offered to ſhew the moſt convenient place for killing cattle; and two of the Engliſh were ordered to attend him on that ſervice; but on one of them truſting the Indian with his firelock and piſtol, the Indian eſcaped with them into the woods, when his countrymen, being apprehenſive of ſuffering for this inſtance of perfidy, deſired, however, to ſend one of their party into the country to bring back the arms, and to perſuade the remainder of the detachment from Guam to ſubmit. The Commodore granted their requeſt, and one of them was diſpatched, who returned the next day with the piſtol and firelock, which he pretended to have found in a path way, and proteſted that he had not been able to meet with any of his countrymen: but this report appeared ſo improbable, that it occaſioned a ſuſpicion, that ſome treachery was carrying on, upon which the Commodore ordered all the Indians in his power to be ſent on board the ſhip, and not allowed to return on ſhore.

All the hands that could be ſpared from attending the ſick, were now employed in arming the cables, with a good rounding to ſecure them from being rubbed by the coral rocks; which being compleated, many attempts were made to ſtop the Centurion's leak; but after ſeveral efforts they were obliged to deſiſt, till they could have an opportunity of heaving down.

On the 12th of September, thoſe who were ſo well recovered as to be capable of doing duty, were ſent on board the ſhip, and then the Commodore, who was himſelf ill of the ſcurvy, and had cauſed a tent to be erect-

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ed for him on ſhore, went thither with a view of ſtaying a few days, to recover his health; being convinced, by experience, that no other method but living on the land, was to be truſted for the removal of that dreadful diſeaſe. The place where his tent was pitched was an elegant ſpot near the well, whence they got all their water.

The caſks were next ſent on ſhore to be filled by the coopers, and as the new moon was approaching, when it was apprehended there would be violent gales, every method was taken that prudence could ſuggeſt to arm the anchors, and ſecure the ſhip from windy weather. But when they had for ſome days flattered themſelves, that the prudence of their meaſures had ſecured them from all accidents, the wind, on the 22d of September, blew from the eaſtward with ſuch fury, that thoſe on board ſoon deſpaired of riding out the ſtorm. The Commodore and moſt of the hands were on ſhore, and all their hopes of ſafety ſeemed to depend on their puting immediately to ſea. But all communication with the ſhip was cut off, for it was impoſſible that a boat could live. As the night approached, the violence of the ſtorm increaſed, while the tide, which at the beginning of the hurricane ſet to the northward, turned ſuddenly to the ſouthward, and in ſpite of the ſtorm forced the ſhip before it. The ſea now broke ſurprizingly all round the ſhip, with a large tumbling ſwell, by which the long-boat, which was moored aſtern, was ſuddenly canted ſo high, that it broke the tranſome of the Commodore's gallery, whoſe cabbin was on the quarter-deck, and the ſtorm was ſo violent, that it ſtove the boat all to pieces, yet the poor boat-keeper, though extreamly bruiſed, was

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ſaved. At length the tide ſlackened, but the wind did not abate, and their cables breaking, all on board were in the greateſt danger, and accordingly fired guns, and ſhewed lights to the Commodore, as ſignals of diſtreſs. About one o'clock, the night being extremely dark, a ſtrong guſt, attended with rain and lightening, forced them out to ſea, utterly unprepared to ſtruggle with the united fury of the waves and winds, and every moment expecting to be loſt.

CHAP. XI.

Tranſactions at Tinian after the Centurion's being driven out to ſea. The proceedings on board the Centurion till her return, and the employment of the Centurion's people till their final departure; with a deſcription of the Ladrone iſlands.

THE dreadful ſtorm by which the Centurion was driven to ſea was too violent to permit any of the people on ſhore to hear the guns, which ſhe fired as ſignals of diſtreſs, while the flaſhes of lightening hindered the exploſions from being obſerved, and therefore at day break, when it was perceived on ſhore, that the ſhip was miſſing, they were all in the utmoſt conſternation. Much the greater part of them inſtantly concluded that ſhe was loſt, and entreated the Commodore to ſend the boat round the iſland to ſearch for the wreck. While thoſe who believed her ſafe, had ſcarcely any expectation of her ever being able to return, as the wind ſtill continued,

nued, and as ſhe was ill manned, and ſo poorly provided for ſtruggling with ſo tempeſtous a gale. In either of which caſes, they conſidered their ſituation as very deplorable, ſince it would be impoſſible for them ever to leave the iſland, and that therefore they muſt bid an everlaſting adieu to their country, their friends, their families, and all their domeſtic endearments. They had alſo reaſon to apprehend, that the governor of Guam, on being informed of their ſituation on ſhore, would ſend a force ſufficient to overpower them, and to remove them to that iſland, and that on having them in his power, he would make their want of commiſſions, all of which were on board the Centurion, a pretence for treating them as pirates, and for putting them to an infamous death.

However, Mr. Anſon ſoon formed a ſcheme for extricating himſelf and his men from their preſent anxious ſituation, and having conſulted ſome of the moſt intelligent perſons about him, and ſatisfied himſelf that it was practicable, endeavoured to animate his people to put it ſpeedily in execution. He told them that he was not without hope, that the Centurion would return in a few days, ſince there was no reaſon to apprehend her being loſt, and that the worſt that could be imagined, was her being driven too far to the leeward of the iſland to return, which would oblige her to bear away for Macoa on the coaſt of China; that in this caſe he had conſidered of a method of following her, which was to hawl the Spaniſh bark on ſhore, to ſaw her aſunder, and to lengthen her twelve feet, which would enlarge her to near forty ton burden, and enable her to carry them all to China; that the carpenters, whom he had conſulted,

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had agreed that this was practicable, and that nothing was wanting to execute it, but their united reſolution and induſtry, and then added, that for his own part he would ſhare the fatigue and labour with them, and would expect no more from any man than he himſelf was ready to ſubmit to.

The people now began to flatter themſelves that the Centurion would be able to regain the iſland, and from this hope they did not ſo heartily engage in the project, as the Commodore could have wiſhed; but at laſt being ſatisfied that it was impoſſible the ſhip ſhould return, they reſolutely applied themſelves to the different taſks allotted them, with as much eagerneſs and induſtry as the Commodore could deſire, punctually aſſembling by day-break at the rendezvous, where they were ſet to their different employments, which they followed with unuſual vigour till night.

But before they entered upon this arduous taſk, an incident happened that gave Mr. Anſon the deepeſt concern; for a few days after the ſhip was driven off, ſome men on ſhore cried out a ſail, which ſpread a general joy, every body ſuppoſing that the ſhip was returning; but ſoon after a ſecond ſail being obſerved, deſtroyed their hopes, and made it difficult for them to gueſs what they were. Mr. Anſon eagerly turned his glaſs towards them, and ſeeing they were two boats, it immediately occurred to him, that the Centurion was ſunk, and that theſe were the two boats coming back with the remains of her people; an idea which ſo deeply affected him, that he was obliged immediately to retire, without ſpeaking, to his tent, in order to conceal his emotion, where he paſſed ſome bitter moments under the firm belief that

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the ſhip was loſt, and that all his views of ſtill ſignalizing his expedition by ſome important exploit were at an end. He was however ſoon relieved from theſe diſtreſſing thoughts, by diſcovering that the two boats were Indian proas, when obſerving that they made towards ſhore, he ordered that every thing that could give them any ſuſpicion ſhould be removed, and concealed his people in the adjacent thickets, to ſecure the Indians upon their landing; but the proas, after coming within a quarter of a mile of the beach, ſtopped ſhort, and having remained motionleſs for two hours, ſteered to the ſouthward.

About the ſame time another incident happened of a very extraordinary manner. The Commodore, attended by ſome of his officers, endeavoured to make the tour of the iſland, and being on a riſing ground, obſerved a ſmall thicket in the valley beneath, that had a progreſſive motion. They were at firſt ſurprized, but ſoon perceived it was ſome large cocoa buſhes dragged along by perſons concealed beneath them. They immediately concluded that theſe were ſome of the party they had found there at their arrival, and therefore Mr. Anſon and thoſe who were with him, haſtened after them in hopes of diſcovering their retreat, when the Indians perceiving that they were diſcovered, ran away with precipitation; but the Commodore was ſo near them, as not to loſe ſight of them till they reached their cell, which he and his officers entering, found that there was a paſſage through it, which led down a precipice, at which they had made their eſcape. They here found an old firelock or two, but no other arms. However, there was a large quantity of proviſions, and in particular ſalted pork, which

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was excellent; and from what theſe gentemen ſaw, they concluded, that their own extraordinary appetite was not confined to the Engliſh; for it being about noon, the Indians, conſidering their number, had laid out a very plentiful repaſt, and had their cocoa nuts and bread fruit ready prepared for eating, and in ſuch a manner as ſhewed, that a good meal was neither an uncommon nor diſregarded article. Mr. Anſon having ſearched to no purpoſe, after the path by which the Indians had eſcaped, he and his officers ſat down to the dinner ſo luckily provided for them. After which they returned back ſomewhat diſpleaſed at miſſing the Indians, as they hoped, that if they could have had any conference with them, they ſhould have engaged them in their ſervice.

The lengthening the bark was attended with great difficulty; ſome of the tools were to be made, and many of the materials were wanting; when the whole ſhould be compleated, they were to rigg, victual, and navigate her, for the ſpace of 6 or 700 leagues through unknown ſeas, which had not been paſſed by any one of the company. However their hopes were kept up by the intervention of ſeveral extraordinary and unexpected accidents. The carpenters both of the Glouceſter and Tryal were on ſhore with their cheſts of tools; the ſmith too was on ſhore with his forge and ſeveral of his tools; but his bellows were on board the ſhip, ſo that he was incapable of working, and they could have no hopes of proceeding without his aſſiſtance. They reſolved therefore firſt of all to make him a pair of bellows, but were for ſome time puzzled for want of leather, but having plenty of hides, and finding a hogſhead of lime, which belonged to the Spaniards or Indians, they tanned a few

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of the hides with it, ſo that the leather anſwered the intention, and compleated the bellows by making a gun-barrel ſerve for a pipe.

While the ſmith was preparing the iron work, others were employed in felling trees, and ſawing them into planks; which being the moſt laborious taſk, the Commodore for the encouragement of the people worked at it himſelf. A new difficulty was occaſioned by there being neither blocks nor cordage for hauling the bark on ſhore; but this was removed by making rollers of the body of the cocoa-nut-tree, which from its ſmoothneſs and circular turn, was adapted to the purpoſe with very little labour. A dry dock was dug to receive the bark, and a way found from thence into the ſea; a party was ordered conſtantly to kill and provide proviſions for the reſt, and good order being eſtabliſhed, and all hands employed, the preparations advanced apace; the men being perhaps the more tractable and induſtrious from there being neither wine nor brandy on ſhore; for the juice of the cocoa-nut, which, though pleaſant, was not intoxicating was their conſtant drink.

As the work advanced apace, the officers began to conſider of the rigging neceſſary to fit the bark for ſea, when in was found that the tents on ſhore, with the ſails and rigging already belonging to the bark, and the ſpare cordage, which had been accidentally landed from the Centurion, would anſwer this purpoſe. They propoſed to pay her bottom with a mixture of tallow and lime; but there was one inconvenience that could not be removed, which was, that as ſhe was not quite forty tons burden, ſhe would be incapable of containing half the crew below the deck, and would be ſo top-heavy, that

all were upon deck at the ſame time, ſhe would be in danger of overſetting. The article of procuring a ſtock of proviſions for the voyage gave them great perplexity, as they had neither grain nor bread of any kind on ſhore, and the bread fruit would not keep at ſea; and though they had live cattle, they had ſcarcely any ſalt. However, they preſerved a ſmall quantity of jerked beef, which they had found in the iſland at their landing, but this was greatly inſufficient. However, it was at laſt reſolved to carry as many cocoa-nuts as they could, to prolong the jerked beef, by uſing it very ſparingly, and to ſupply the want of bread by rice, to obtain which, they ſhould land in the iſland of Rota, where the Spaniards had large plantations of that grain, and carry off a ſufficient quantity by force; but this ſcheme making it neceſſary for them to examine the ammunition they had on ſhore, they had the mortification to find, that all the powder did not amount to one charge a piece to each of the company.

One of the moſt alarming circumſtances was, the diſcouraging diſcovery, that there was neither compaſs nor quadrant on the iſland; but at laſt, on rummaging the cheſt belonging to the Spaniſh bark, they diſcovered a ſmall compaſs, which though little better than ſuch as were made for the amuſement of ſchool-boys, was to them an invaluable treaſure, and afterwards a quadrant was found on the ſea-ſhore, which had been thrown overboard among other lumber belonging to the dead. This was eagerly ſeized, but on examination it unluckily wanted vanes, and therefore was entirely uſeleſs. However, a perſon ſometime after pulling out the drawer of an old table, which had been driven on ſhore, found ſome vanes

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in it, which fitted the quadrant very well; when it being examined by the known latitude of the place, it was found to be ſufficiently exact.

All things being now in great forwardneſs, and ſome of the principal obſtacles removed, they were able to determine when the whole would be finiſhed, and had accordingly fixed the 5th of November for the day of their putting to ſea; but on the 11th of October in the afternoon, one of the Glouceſter's men being upon a hill in the middle of the iſland, ſaw the Centurion at a diſtance, and running with the utmoſt ſpeed towards the landing-place, ſaw in his way ſome of his comrades, to whom he called with great extaſy, "The ſhip! the ſhip!" which being heard by Mr. Gordon a lieutenant of marines, he ran to the place where the Commodore and his people were at work, and being freſh and in breath, eaſily outſtripped the Glouceſter's man, and told the Commodore, who, on hearing this joyful and unexpected news, threw down his ax with which he was then at work, while the others ran down to the ſea-ſide to feaſt themſelves with the ſight, for which they had ſo eagerly longed. By five in the evening the Centurion was viſible to them all, when a boat was ſent out with 18 men to reinforce her, with freſh meat and fruits for the refreſhment of the crew, and the next afternoon ſhe happily caſt anchor in the road, where the Commodore immediately went on board her, and was received with joyful acclamations.

To proceed to what happened on board the Centurion while at ſea. It has already been obſerved, that ſhe was driven from the iſland in a very dark night, by a prodigious ſtorm. The condition of thoſe on board was very dreadful, they were in a leaky ſhip, with three

cables in their hawſers, to one of which hung their only remaining anchor, not a gun on board was laſhed, nor a port barred in, and they were able to ſet no ſail except the mizen. They could muſter no more ſtrength to navigate the ſhip, than 108 hands, which were ſcarcely the fourth part of her complement, and moſt of theſe were either boys, or ſuch as were ſtill feeble from their being but lately recovered of the ſcurvy. By the violence of the ſtorm, and the working of the ſhip, they made a great quantity of water through the ports, hawſe-holes and ſcuppers, which added to the leak, rendered their pumps a ſufficient employment for all on board. But they had other dangers which appeared ſtill more immediate. They all imagined they were driven on the iſland of Aguigan, which was but two leagues diſtant, and as they had no ſail ſet but the mizen, that was inſufficient to clear them of this imminent danger. They therefore, left the pumps to uſe their utmoſt efforts to heave up the main and fore-yards, in order to ſave themſelves, if poſſible, from being wrecked. But after three hours ineffectual labour, the jeers broke, and the men were obliged from mere debility, to deſiſt, and quietly expect their fate, which appeared inevitable; for they eſteemed themſelves driven upon the ſhore, and the darkneſs of the night made them expect to diſcover it no otherwiſe than by ſtriking upon it, ſo that they were ſeveral hours under the ſerious apprehenſions that each ſucceeding moment would ſend them to the bottom; nor did theſe continued terrors of inſtantly ſtriking and ſinking ceaſe, till day-break, when in a tranſport of joy they perceived that the dreaded iſland was at a conſiderable diſtance,

diſtance, and that they had been preſerved by a ſtrong northern current.

The boiſterous waves which had forced them from Tinian did not abate till three days after, and while they continued on at ſea, both the chaplain and every other officer were obliged to ſubmit to the ſame bodily labour as the common ſailors. The heaving up of the ſheet anchor, which they had hitherto dragged at their bows with two cables, coſt them the ſevereſt application for twelve hours, before they brought it in ſight; when it growing dark, their fatigue obliged them to deſiſt 'till the next day, and then that arduous taſk was compleated. They afterwards conquered ſome of the other difficulties they laboured under, and being enabled to make uſe of their canvas, ſtood to the eaſtward in hopes of regaining the iſland of Tinian, they being according to their own reckonings, but 47 leagues diſtant from it. But on the firſt of October, when they had run the diſtance neceſſary for making the iſland according to their own reckoning, and were in full expectation of ſeeing it, they were unhappily diſappointed, and convinced that the current had driven them conſiderably to the weſtward. They were now in great perplexity from the apprehenſions of wanting water, but on the next day had a ſight of the iſland of Guam, and thence computed that the current had driven them 40 leagues to the weſtward of their accounts. The ſight of land let them know their ſituation, and therefore, plying to the eaſtward, they continued that courſe with exceſſive labour, and with a contrary wind till the 11th of October, which was the 19th day from their departure, when arriving in the offing of Tinian, they were reinforced from the ſhore, and to their

inexpreſſible joy, on the evening of the ſame day, came to an anchor in the road.

The Commodore on his going aboard the Centurion, after her return to Tinian, reſolved to ſtay no longer at the iſland than was abſolutely neceſſary to compleat his ſtock of water; and the long-boat being ſtaved, as has been already mentioned, they were obliged to make uſe of rafts, which, as the tide ran extremely ſtrong, occaſioned frequent delays, and more than once the loſs of the whole raft; but this was not their only misfortune; for on the third day after the Centurion's return, a ſudden guſt of wind brought home the anchor, and drove her a ſecond time to ſea. However, the Commodore and the principal officers were now on board; but there were near ſeventy of the men on ſhore, who had been employed in filling water and procuring proviſions. They had the two cutters with them; but they being too many for the cutters to bring off at once, the Commodore ſent the 18 oared barge to their aſſiſtance. The two cutters ſoon returned filled with men, but forty of the company remained behind, who were employed in killing cattle in the woods, and in bringing them to the landing place. Yet as the ſhip ſoon drove to a conſiderable diſtance, it was not in their power to join her, though the 18 oared barge was left to convey them on board. The weather, however, being favourable, the Centurion within about five days returned again to an anchor at Tinian.

On the Centurion's arrival it appeared that the Spaniſh bark had undergone a new change; for the people on ſhore, deſpairing of her return, had reſolved to re-

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ſtore her to her former ſtate, and had made ſuch progreſs, that they ſoon would have compleated her.

The people at their ſecond return to the iſland laboured with indefatigable induſtry in getting in their water; and having by the 20th of October compleated it to 50 ton, which was thought ſufficient for their paſſage to Macao, the Commodore ſent the next day one of each meſs on ſhore, to gather as large a quantity of oranges, lemons, cocoa-nuts, and other fruits as they pleaſed, for the uſe of themſelves and their meſs-mates at ſea; and they returning in the evening, fire was ſet to the bark and proa, the Centurion hoiſted in her boats, got under ſail, and ſteered towards the ſouth end of the iſland of Formoſa.

It cannot here be improper to interrupt the narration with a deſcription of that range of iſlands, generally called the Ladrones or Marian iſlands, which were diſcovered by Magellan, in the year 1521, and from the account given of the two firſt he fell in with, it ſeems as if they were thoſe of Saypan, and Tinian; for they are repreſented as extremely beautiful, and as lying in between 15 and 16 degrees of north latitude. From the pleaſing appearance of Tinian, the Spaniards have given it the name of Buenaviſta; and Saypan, which is in the latitude of 15°. 22′. north, affords an agreeable proſpect when ſeen at ſea.

Theſe iſlands are generally reckoned twelve in number; but if the ſmall iſlets and rocks are counted, they will in all amount to twenty. Formerly moſt of them were inhabited; but of the three principal iſlands Guam, Rota, and Tinian, which ſixty years ago are ſaid to have been extreamly populous, Tinian hath been entirely de-

populated, and not above two or three hundred Indians left at Rota to cultivate rice for the iſland of Guam; ſo that at preſent the laſt mentioned iſland is the only one that can properly be ſaid to be inhabited by the Spaniards; for there they keep a governor and a garriſon, and there the Manila ſhip generally touches for refreſhment, in her paſſage from Acapulco to the Philippines. That iſland is computed to be about 30 leagues in circumference, and contains 4000 inhabitants, 1000 of which are ſuppoſed to live in the city of San Ignatio de Agana, which is the governor's uſual reſidence. The houſes are built with ſtone and timber, and covered with tiles, which is a very unuſual method of building in theſe warm climates. This iſland has alſo 13 or 14 villages. As Guam is eſteemed a place of conſequence, on account of its affording refreſhment to the Manila ſhip, there are two caſtles on the ſea-ſhore, which mount only five guns each, and a battery of five pieces of cannon on an eminence near the ſea. The Spaniards have here three companies of foot of between 40 and 50 men each; this is the principal ſtrength on which the governor depends, for he is generally upon ill terms with the inhabitants, who are debarred the uſe of lances and fire-arms.

Though the reſt of theſe iſlands are uninhabited, they afford plenty of refreſhments of all kinds, but there is not a good road or harbour among them all; and tho' the Manila ſhip is to ſtay 24 hours at Guam, it is not uncommon for her to be forced to ſea, and to leave her boat behind her.

The Indians of theſe iſlands are a ſtrong, well limbed, and bold people, and from ſome of their practices, ſeem to be no ways defective in underſtanding; for their fly-

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ing proas, which for many ages paſt, have been the only veſſels they have employed, are a very ſingular and extraordinary invention, and are ſaid to be capable of running with a briſk trade-wind near twenty miles in an hour. The head and ſtern of the proa are exactly alike, but her two ſides are very different. That intended to be always the lee ſide being flat, whilſt the windward ſide is built rounding in the manner of other veſſels; but as her ſmall breadth, and the ſtraight run of her leeward-ſide, would infallibly make her overſet, a frame is laid out from her to windward, to the end of which is faſtened a hollow log, formed like a ſmall boat. The weight of the frame is deſigned to balance the proa, and the ſmall boat, which is always in the water, to prevent her overſetting to windward. In ſhort, the body of the proa is formed of two pieces joined end ways, and ſewed together with bark; for no iron is uſed in her conſtruction She is about two inches thick at the bottom, which at the gunwale is reduced to leſs than one. The proa generally carries ſix or ſeven Indians, two of whom are placed in the head and ſtern, who ſteer the veſſel alternately with a paddle, according to the tack ſhe goes on, he in the ſtern being the ſteerſman. The other Indians are employed either in baling out the water, which ſhe accidentally ſhips, or in ſetting and trimming the ſail. Theſe veſſals ſail moſt excellently on a wind, and with either end foremoſt run from one of theſe iſlands to the other, and back again, only by ſhifting the ſail, without ever putting about; and by their ſmall breadth and the flatneſs of their lee-ſide, are capable of lying much nearer the wind than any other veſſel hitherto known.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

The Centurion's run from Tinian to Macao. The Commodore's proceedings at that port. Having refitted, he ſails to Cape Eſpiritu Santo, takes the Manila galleon, and returns back. His tranſactions in the river of Canton, and in the city of that name, where the Engliſh extinguiſh a dreadful fire. A ſhort character of the Chineſe. The Centurion returns to England.

THE Centurion departed from Tinian on the 21ſt of October, in the evening, when the eaſtern monſoon being ſettled, ſhe generally ran from 40 to 50 leagues a day. On the 3d of November they ſaw an iſlet or rock, and about an hour after the iſland called Botel Tobago Xima. Having doubled the ſouthern extremity of Formoſa, which is in the latitude of 21°. 15′. north, they paſſed by the rocks Vele Rete; but at this inſtant, the people in the Centurion were alarmed by an outcry of fire, in the forecaſtle; upon which the whole crew immediately flocked together in the utmoſt confuſion, ſo that for ſome time the officers found is difficult to appeaſe the uproar; but the people being at length reduced to order, it was perceived that the fire proceeded from the bricks in the furnace being overheated, which had occaſioned their communicating the fire to the adjacent wood-work, but by pulling down the brick-work it was eaſily extinguiſhed. In the evening they were ſurprized with the ſight of what they at firſt took to be breakers,

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but on a ſtricter examination, they were found to be only a great number of fires on the iſland of Formoſa, which they imagined were intended by the inhabitants as ſignals to invite them to touch there. But they were too impatient to reach the port of Macao to conſent to this delay. At about midnight they got ſight of the mainland of China, at four leagues diſtance, upon which they brought the ſhip to, propoſing to wait for the morning; but before ſun-riſe they were ſurpriſed to find themſelves in the midſt of an incredible number of fiſhing-boats, which ſeemed to cover the ſurface of the ſea as far as the eye could reach, moſt of them were manned with five hands, and none with leſs than three, and as they ran to the weſtward, they found them as numerous on every part of the coaſt. The Commodore was at firſt in hopes of procuring a pilot from them, to conduct the ſhip to Macoa; but the people on board could not make them underſtand their meaning. What appeared moſt ſurpriſing, was the inattention and want of curioſity obſerved in this herd of fiſhermen, who had doubtleſs never ſeen any ſhip like the Centurion, and perhaps there was not one in all that fiſhery, who had ever beheld any European veſſel: but though many of the boats came cloſe to the ſhip, they did not in the leaſt deviate from their courſe to regard it.

On the 5th of November at midnight, they firſt made the coaſt of China, and about two the next day, while they were ſteering to the weſtward within two leagues of the coaſt, and ſtill ſurrounded by fiſhing veſſels in as great numbers as at firſt, they perceived that a boat ahead of them waved a red flag and blew a horn, which was conſidered by the people of the Centurion as a ſignal

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made to them, either to warn them of ſome ſhoal, or to inform them that they would ſupply them with a pilot. Mr. Anſon therefore immediately ſent out the cutter to the boat to know their intentions, when it was found that this boat was the Commodore of the whole fiſhery, and that the ſignal was to order them all to leave off fiſhing, and to return in ſhore, which they inſtantly obeyed.

Being thus diſappointed, they kept on their courſe, and the next day, were abreaſt of a chain of iſlands that ſtretched from eaſt to weſt, called the iſlands of Lema: they are rocky and barren, and are 15 or 16 in number, beſides many more between them and the main-land of China. Being ſtill ſurrounded by fiſhing boats, the Commodore once more ſent the cutter on board ſome of them to endeavour to procure a pilot, but without effect. However, one of the Chineſe directed them by ſigns to ſail round the weſtermoſt of the iſlands of Lema, and then to hale up, which direction they followed, and in the evening they came to an anchor.

The next morning a Chineſe pilot came on board the Centurion, and offered in broken Portugueſe to carry the ſhip to Macao for thirty dollars. Theſe were immediately paid him, and they then weighed and made ſail, but ſoon after ſeveral other pilots came on board, who endeavoured to recommend themſelves by producing certificates from many European ſhips they had piloted in; but they ſtill continued under the management of the Chineſe whom they had firſt engaged. They now paſſed by a number of other iſlands; but the tides frequently ſetting ſtrongly againſt them, they were often obliged to come to an anchor, and on the 12th of November anchored in Macao road, and once more arrived

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at an amicable port, where they expected the ſatisfaction of receiving letters from their relations and friends, and where their countrymen, who were lately arrived from England, would be able to anſwer the numerous enquiries they were prepared to make.

The city of Macao is ſituated in an iſland at the entrance of the river of Canton, and was formerly very rich, populous, and able to defend itſelf againſt the power of the adjacent Chineſe governors; but is at preſent ſo reduced, that the governor, who is nominated by the king of Portugal, ſubſiſts merely by the courteſy of the Chineſe, who can ſtarve the place, and diſpoſſeſs the Portugueſe whenever they pleaſe, which obliges the governor carefully to avoid giving them offence. The river of Canton, at the mouth of which this city lies, is the only Chineſe port, to which European ſhips reſort, and is a far more commodious harbour than Macao. But the Commodore's apprehenſions, that if he ſhould inſiſt on being treated upon a different footing than the merchantmen, he would embroil the Eaſt-India company with the regency of Canton, made him chuſe rather to go to Macao, than to enter the port of Canton.

Mr Anſon no ſooner came to an anchor in Macao road, than he diſpatched an officer with his compliments to the Portugueſe governor, to deſire his excellency's advice, in what manner it would be proper for him to act to avoid giving offence to the Chineſe, which was a matter worthy of attention, as there were then four of our Eaſt-India ſhips in their power at Canton; particularly with reſpect to the duty uſually paid by ſhips in that river, according to their tonnage; for as men of war are exempted in every foreign harbour from paying any manner of

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port charges, Mr. Anſon thought it would derogate from the honour of his country to ſubmit to this duty. In the evening the boat returned with two officers ſent by the governor, who told Mr. Anſon, that it was the governor's opinion, that if the Centurion entered the river of Canton, the duty would certainly be expected, and therefore, if he approved of it, he would ſend him a pilot, who ſhould conduct her into a another ſafe harbour in the Typa, where the ſhip might be careened, and where the above-mentioned duty would probably never be demanded. To this propoſal the Commodore agreed, and the next morning ſteered under the direction of the Portugueſe pilot, and after ſome difficulties, on account of the ſhallowneſs of the water, entered the harbour, which is formed by a number of iſlands, and is about ſix miles diſtant from Macao. Here he ſaluted the caſtle of Macao with eleven guns, which were returned by an equal number.

As Mr. Anſon wanted both a ſupply of proviſions, and of naval ſtores for refitting the ſhip, he the next day paid a viſit, in perſon, to the governor and at his landing, was ſaluted by eleven guns, which were returned by the Centurion. But though the governor ſeemed inclined to do him all the ſervice in his power, and told him, that he would do this privately, yet he frankly owned, that he could not furniſh him with what he demanded, without an order from the viceroy of Canton, ſince all the proviſions and other neceſſaries he received for himſelf and his garriſon, were by permiſſion of the Chineſe government, who took care to victual him only from day to day, and were always able to oblige him to ſubmit to their terms, by laying an embargo on his proviſions.

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Upon this declaration, Mr. Anſon reſolved to go to Canton to ſeek redreſs from the viceroy, and for that purpoſe hired a Chineſe boat for himſelf and his attendants; but juſt when he was ready to embark, the Hoppo, or Chineſe cuſtom-houſe officer of Macao, refuſed to grant a permit, and ordered the watermen not to proceed at their peril; and though the governor of Macao joined his intereſt to perſwade him, the Hoppo continued inflexible. The next day Mr. Anſon told him, that if the permit was any longer refuſed, he would man and arm the Centurion's boats, and aſked the Hoppo, who he imagined would dare to oppoſe their paſſage? Upon this threat the permit was granted, and Mr. Anſon arriving at Canton, conſulted the ſupercargoes and officers of the Engliſh ſhips, how to procure an order from the viceroy for the neceſſaries he wanted; upon which they referred him to ſome Chineſe merchants, who having cajoled him from day to day, by promiſing to lay the ſtate of his affairs before the viceroy, and obtaining for him whatever he deſired, after reiterated excuſes, and a month's delay, threw off the maſk, and being cloſely preſſed, declared, that they neither had, nor could make application to the viceroy, as he was too great a man for them to approach on any occaſion. The Commodore now perceived, when too late, that he had been wrong in conſulting ſo much the intereſt of the Eaſt-India company, and therefore, after his return to the Centurion, wrote a letter to the viceroy, to inform him, that he was commander in chief of a ſquadron of Britiſh ſhips of war, which had been cruiſing for years paſt againſt the Spaniards, who were at enmity with the king his maſter, and that he was obliged to enter the port of Macao to

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ſtop a conſiderable leak in his ſhip, and to ſupply himſelf with proviſions and neceſſaries, in order to purſue his voyage.

The letter being tranſlated into the Chineſe language, the Commodore delivered it himſelf to the Hoppo, or chief officer of the cuſtoms at Macao, and deſired him to forward it to the viceroy of Canton, with as much expedition as he could; but that officer ſeeming unwilling to take charge of it, the Commodore took it again, and told him that he would immediately ſend it to Canton in his own boat, and would give his officer poſitive orders, not to return without an anſwer from the viceroy. The Hoppo now perceiving that the Commodore was in earneſt, and fearing to be called to an account for his refuſal, begged to be intruſted with it, and promiſed to procure an anſwer as ſoon as poſſible. Two days after, in the morning, a Mandarine of the firſt rank, who was governor of the city of Janſon, together with two Mandarines of an inferior claſs, and a conſiderable retinue of officers and ſervants, came in eighteen half gallies, decorated with a great number of ſtreamers, and attended with a band of muſic. The Centurion's boat was immediately diſpatched to bring the principal Mandarine on board; and 100 of the moſt likely people of the crew were uniformly dreſſed in the regimentals of the marines, and drawn up under arms on the main deck againſt his arrival. On his entering the ſhip, he was ſaluted by the drums and trumpets, and paſſing by the new formed guard, was met by the Commodore on the quarter-deck; who conducted him to the great cabbin. The Mandarine there explained his commiſſion, and told the Commodore, that he had brought with him two Chineſe carpenters,

ters, to examine the ſtate of the ſhip; and the neceſſary inſpection being made, they declared, that it was impoſſible for the Centurion to proceed to ſea without being refitted. Upon which the Mandarine expreſſed himſelf ſatisfied with the account given in the Commodore's letter. This Mandarine appeared to be a perſon of conſiderable parts, and endowed with more frankneſs and honeſty, than is generally to be found among the Chineſe. He was alſo very curious and inquiſitive, viewed every part of the ſhip with extraordinary attention, and appeared greatly ſurprized at the largeneſs of the lower deck guns, and at the weight and ſize of the ſhot. The Commodore obſerving his aſtoniſhment, ſeized this opportunity to convince the Chineſe of the prudence of granting all his demands in the moſt ample and ſpeedy manner. He therefore complained of the proceedings of the officers of the cuſtom houſe of Macao, who had prevented his being ſupplied with freſh proviſions, and then telling the Mandarines, that as they had informed themſelves of his wants, and were eye witneſſes of his force, they muſt be ſatisfied that his deſire of having the government's permiſſion to purchaſe what proviſions he wanted, was not becauſe he had not power to ſupply himſelf, ſince he preſumed, they were convinced that the Centurion alone was capable of deſtroying the whole navigation of the port of Canton, or any other port in China. That this, it was true, was not the manner of proceeding between nations in friendſhip with each other, but it was alſo true, that it was not cuſtomary for any nation to ſuffer the ſhips of their friends to ſtarve and ſink in their ports, when thoſe friends only deſired liberty to lay out their money. That they muſt confeſs,

he and his people had behaved with great modeſty and reſerve; but as his diſtreſſes were every day increaſing, famine would at laſt prove too ſtrong for any reſtraint, and neceſſity in all countries was acknowledged to be ſuperior to every other law. That therefore, if by the delay of ſupplying him with proviſions, his men ſhould, from the impulſe of hunger, be obliged to turn canibals, and to prey upon their own ſpecies, it was eaſy to be foreſeen, that independent of their friendſhip to their comrades, they would, in point of luxury, prefer the plump well fed Chineſe, to their own emaciated ſhipmates. The firſt Mandarine acquieſced in the juſtneſs of this reaſoning, and promiſed on his arrival at Canton, to call a council of Mandarines, and ſaid, that he did not doubt, but on the repreſentation he ſhould make of what he had ſeen, they would all be of the ſame opinion with himſelf, and that every thing he demanded would be ſpeedily granted. That with regard to the complaint of the cuſtom-houſe of Macao, he would rectify it immediately by his own authority; and then deſiring a liſt to be given him of the proviſions neceſſary for the ſhip for one day, wrote a permit under it, and delivered it to one of his attendants, with orders to ſee that quantity ſent on board every morning early, and this order was punctually complied with.

This affair being regulated, the Commodore invited him and two other Mandarines, to dinner, but they were much embarraſſed with their knives and forks. After ſome fruitleſs attempts to make uſe of them, in which they appeared extremely aukward, one of the attendants cut their meat for them, in ſmall pieces; however, notwithſtanding the difficulty they found in complying with

with the European manner of eating, they ſeemed to be no novices at drinking. The Commodore excuſed himſelf under the pretence of illneſs, but there being another gentleman preſent of a florid complexion, the Mandarine clapped him on the ſhoulder, and told him by the interpreter, that he was ſure he could not plead ſickneſs, and therefore he inſiſted on his bearing him company; and that gentleman perceiving, that after they had diſpatched four or five bottles of Frontiniac, the Mandarine was ſtill unruffled, ordered a bottle of Citron water to be brought, which the Chineſe ſeemed much to reliſh, and this being near finiſhed, they aroſe from table, in appearance, cool and undiſordered, and Mr. Anſon having according to cuſtom, made the Mandarine a preſent, they all departed in the ſame veſſels in which they came.

Mr. Anſon waited with great impatience for the reſolution of the counſel, and the proper licences to enable him to refit the ſhip; but notwithſtanding the favourable diſpoſition of the Mandarine governor, ſeveral days elapſed before he had any advice from him; and Mr. Anſon was privately informed, that there were great debates in the council upon this affair. However, on the 6th of January, the Mandarine, who was the Commodore's advocate, ſent the viceroy of Canton's warrant for refitting the Centurion, and for ſupplying her people with all they wanted; and having now the neceſſary licences, a number of Chineſe carpenters and ſmiths went on board the next day, to treat about the work they were to perform. They at firſt aſked the value of 1000*l.* ſterling for repairing the ſhip, the maſts and boats; which the Commodore thinking unreaſonable, ſtrove to

perſuade them to work by the day; but this they would not hearken to; but it was at laſt agreed, that the carpenters ſhould receive the value of about 600 *l.* for their work, and that the ſmiths ſhould be paid for their iron work by weight, at the rate of near 3 *l. per* hundred for the ſmall work, and 2 *l* 6 *s.* for the large.

The Commodore now exerted himſelf in order to get this important work compleated, and diſpatched his firſt lieutenant to Canton to hire two junks, one of which was intended to heave down by, and the other to ſerve as a magazine for the ammunition: At the ſame time the ground was levelled on one of the neighbouring iſlands; a large tent pitched for lodging the lumber and proviſions, and near 100 Chineſe caulkers were ſoon ſet to work on the decks and ſides of the ſhip: but though they worked very well, they were far from being expeditious. However, on the 3d of March, the paying and ſheathing the bottom was compleated to their great joy, ſince not only the fatigue of careening had been conſiderable, but the crew had been apprehenſive of being attacked by the Spaniards, while the ſhip was thus incapable. Indeed their fears were not groundleſs, for they were afterwards informed by a Portugueſe veſſel, that the Spaniards at Manila had learned, that the Centurion was in the Typa, and intended to careen there, upon which the governor had ſummoned his council, and made a propoſal to burn her while ſhe was careening which, if properly conducted, might have been accompliſhed. It was alſo reported that the ſcheme was approved, and that the captain of a veſſel had actually undertaken it for 40,000 dollars, which he was not to receive, unleſs he ſucceeded, but the governor pretending that there was

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no treaſure in the royal cheſt, inſiſted that the money ſhould be advanced by the merchants, and they refuſing to comply with the demand, the affair was dropped.

The Centurion was no ſooner righted, than the crew took on board her powder and ammunition, and ſet about repairing the fore-maſt; but while they were thus employed, they were alarmed on the 10th of March by a Chineſe fiſherman, who pretended, that he had been on board a large Spaniſh ſhip off the Grand Ladrone, and that there were two more in company; and added, that he had brought one of their officers to Macao, and that boats went off early in the morning from Macao to him. The better to gain credit to this ſtory, he deſired no money if his information did not prove true. It was preſently believed that this perſon was come with a view of burning the ſhip. Upon which the Commodore immediately prepared his cannon and fire-arms for her defence, and his pinnace and cutter being now in the offing, he let them know the advice he had received, and ordered them to keep a ſtrict look out; but no Spaniſh ſhip ever appeared, and the Commodore was ſoon convinced that the whole ſtory was a fiction.

In the beginning of April the ſhip was new rigged, her proviſions and water were ſtowed on board, and ſhe fitted for the ſea, before which time the Chineſe had been very uneaſy at her ſtay. At length two Mandarine boats came on board from Macao, to preſs the Commodore to leave their port, and this having been often urged before, though there had been no reaſon to ſuſpect Mr. Anſon of delay, he, at this laſt meſſage, deſired them to give him no farther trouble, for he would go when he thought proper, and no ſooner. Upon this they prohi-

bited all proviſions being carried on board, and took ſuch care to inforce this order, that nothing could be purchaſed at any price whatſoever. The Centurion however weighed from the Typa on the 6th of April, and having got into Macao road, compleated her water as ſhe paſſed along, and her whole buſineſs being finiſhed by the 19th, ſhe weighed and ſtood to ſea.

It ought to be obſerved, that ſoon after their arrival at Macao, captain Saunders being charged with diſpatches from the Commodore, took his paſſage to England on board a Swediſh ſhip, and that ſeveral other officers had obtained the Commodore's liberty to return home, and had embarked on board ſome of the Eaſt-India company's ſhips.

The Commodore before his departure had entered twenty-three men, moſt of whom were Laſcars or Indian ſailors, and the reſt Dutch. While he was at Macao he gave out that he was bound to Batavia, and thence to England, and though the weſterly monſoon was ſet in, and rendered that paſſage in a manner impracticable, yet he expreſſed ſuch confidence in the ſtrength of his ſhip, and the ſkill of his men, that he raiſed a belief, not only among his own crew, but among the people at Macao, that he intended to try that unuſual experiment. But his real deſign was to return to the Pacific Ocean, and to cruize off Cape Eſpiritu Santo, on the iſland of Samal, for the Manila ſhips, for he ſuppoſed that there would that year be two, on account of his having prevented one of them from putting to ſea the preceding year. Therefore being clear of the coaſt, he ſummoned all his people on the quarter-deck, and informed them of his reſolution; he told them he would chuſe a ſtation

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where he could not fail of meeting with the two Manila ſhips, and notwithſtanding their being ſtout veſſels and full manned, yet, if his own people behaved with their uſual ſpirit, he was ſure that he ſhould prove too hard for them both, and that one of them at leaſt would not fail of becoming his prize. The men received the Commodore's ſpeech with great joy, expreſſed their approbation by their hearty cheers, and declared their reſolution to ſucceed or periſh whenever the opportunity offered. Their hopes, which on their departure from the coaſt of Mexico had entirely ſubſided, were again revived, and they were all firmly perſuaded, that they ſhould take the galleons, and return home enriched with the ſpoils of the enemy.

On the firſt of May, they ſaw part of the iſland of Formoſa, and on the fourth diſcovered the Baſhee iſlands, which have hitherto been laid down 25 leagues too far eaſtward; for, by their obſervations, they found the middle of theſe iſlands to be in 21°. 4′. north latitude.

On the 20th of May at noon, they firſt diſcovered Cape Eſpiritu Santo, which appeared of a moderate height, with ſeveral round hummocs upon it. But as they knew that there were centinels placed upon this cape to make ſignals to the Acapulco ſhip, when ſhe firſt falls in with the land, the Commodore, when at eleven leagues diſtance, tacked, ordered the top-gallant ſails to be taken in, to prevent being diſcovered, reſolving to cruize for the galleons, between the latitude of 12°. 50′. and 13°. 5′. the cape itſelf, according to their obſervations, lying in 12°. 40′. north latitude. As there was now but ſmall employment for the crew, they were ordered by the Commodore to be exerciſed almoſt every

day, in working the great guns, and in the uſe of their ſmall arms, which had, more or leſs, been his practice at every convenient opportunity, during the whole voyage. They were indeed taught no more of the manual exerciſe, than the ſhorteſt way of loading with cartridges, but were conſtantly trained to fire at a mark, which was generally hung at the yard-arm, and as ſome little reward was given to the moſt expert, the whole crew were become extremely ſhilful; for beſides an uncommon readineſs in loading, they were all of them good markſmen.

The Centurion having arrived off Cape Eſpiritu Santo, and the galleons being expected, the Commodore made all the neceſſary preparations for receiving them, and was at the ſame time ſolliçitous to keep at ſuch a diſtance from the cape as not to be diſcovered. But it has ſince appeared, that in ſpite of all his care, he was ſeen from the land, and advice of this was ſent to Manila, where it was at firſt disbelieved, but upon repeated intelligence of his being again ſeen, the merchants were alarmed, and application being made to the governor, he undertook to fit out a force, conſiſting of two ſhips of 32 guns, one of 20, and two ſloops of 10 guns each, to attack the Centurion in her ſtation, the merchants being to ſupply the neceſſary ſums. Some of theſe veſſels actually weighed, but the principal ſhip not being ready, and the monſoon being againſt them, the governor and the merchants diſagreed, which occaſioned the enterprize to be laid aſide.

The impatience of the Commodore's people daily increaſed, in proportion as the month of June advanced. But at length the laſt day of June new ſtile arrived, when

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the certainty of ſeeing theſe veſſels dwindled down to a mere poſſibility. But the next day they were relieved from their uncertainty, for at ſun riſe, they diſcovered a ſail from the maſt head. A general joy inſtantly ſpread through the whole ſhip, for they did not at all doubt but this was one of the galleons, and they expected ſoon to deſcry the other. The Commodore immediately ſtood towards her and at half an hour after ſeven, ſhe was viſible from the Centurion's deck, at which time the galleon fired a gun, and took in her top-gallant ſails, which was ſuppoſed to be a ſignal to her conſort to haſten up, and therefore the Centurion to amuſe her, fired a gun to lee ward. During all this time the galleon did not change her courſe, but to the Commodore's ſurprize, bore down upon him; for he could hardly believe, what afterwards appeared to be the caſe, that ſhe knew his ſhip to be the Centurion, and reſolved to fight him.

About noon the galleon haled up her fore ſail, and brought to on her top ſails, hoiſting Spaniſh colours and having the ſtandard of Spain flying at the top gallant maſt head. Mean while Mr. Anſon picked out about thirty of the beſt markſmen, whom he diſtributed into his tops, and as he had not hands enough left to quarter a ſufficient number in the cuſtomary manner to each gun, he on his lower tire fixed only two men to each gun, who were to be ſolely employed in loading it, while the reſt of his people were divided into different gangs of ten or twelve men each, who were to be continually moving about the decks, to run and fire ſuch guns as were loaded, by which management he was able to make uſe of all his guns, and inſtead of whole broadſides with intervals between them, to keep a conſtant fire without

without intermiſſion, from which he hoped to procure great advantages: for it is uſual with the Spaniards, when they ſee a broad-ſide preparing, to fall down upon the decks, and to continue in that poſture till it is given; after which they riſe again, and thinking the danger to be for ſome time over, fire with great briſkneſs till another broad-ſide is ready; and therefore firing gun by gun rendered this impoſſible. The Centurion now approached the galleon apace, but ſeveral ſqualls of wind and rain often obſcured her from their ſight. However, when it cleared up, they perceived her reſolutely lying to. About one o'clock the Centurion being within gun-ſhot of the enemy, hoiſted her broad pendant and colours, and the Commodore perceiving that the Spaniards had till then neglected clearing their ſhip, and were throwing their cattle and lumber overboard, he gave orders to fire upon them with their chaſe-guns to diſturb them in their work, and prevent their compleating it, though he had before given general directions not to engage before they were within piſtol-ſhot. The galleon inſtantly returned the fire with two of her ſtern chace; and the Centurion getting her ſprit-ſail yard fore and aft, that if neceſſary ſhe might be ready for boarding; the Spaniards in a bravado alſo rigged their ſprit-ſail fore and aft. The Centurion ſoon after came a-breaſt of the enemy within piſtol-ſhot, when the engagement began in earneſt, and for the firſt half hour Mr. Anſon over-reached the galleon and lay on her bow, where, from the wideneſs of his ports, he could traverſe all his guns upon the enemy, while the galleon could bring only a part of her's to bear. At the beginning of the action, the mats, with which the galleon

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had ſtuffed her netting, took fire, and burning violently, blazed up near half as high as the mizen-top. This accident, which was ſuppoſed to be cauſed by the Centurion's wads, filled the enemy with the utmoſt terror, and alſo alarmed the Commodore, who was in pain, from the apprehenſion of the galleon's being burned, and the poſſibility of his ſuffering by her driving on board him. The Spaniards however, at laſt freed themſelves from the fire, cutting away the netting, and tumbling the whole heap, which was in flames into the ſea. Mean while the Centurion kept her firſt advantageous poſition, firing her guns with great briſkneſs and regularity, while the galleon's decks lay open to their top-men, who having at the firſt volley driven the Spaniards from their tops, made prodigious havoc with their ſmall arms, killing or wounding every officer, but one, that appeared on the quarter-deck, and in particular the general of the galleon himſelf. But when the Centurion had continued in this advantageous ſituation about half an hour, ſhe loſt the ſuperiority ſhe had gained by it, and was cloſe along ſide of the galleon, who continued firing briſkly for near an hour longer; yet in this poſture, the Commodore's grape-ſhot ſo effectually ſwept their decks, and the number of their ſlain and wounded became ſo conſiderable, that they began to fall into great diſorder, and the ſhips were ſo near, that the Spaniſh officers were ſeen running about with much aſſiduity to prevent the men from deſerting their quarters. But their endeavours were vain, for after they had as a laſt effort, fired five or ſix guns, with more judgment than uſual, they ſubmitted; and as the galleon's colours were in the beginning of

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the action ſinged off the enſign ſtaff, ſhe ſtruck the ſtandard at her main-top-gallant maſt head.

This valuable prize, which amounted to near a million and a half of dollars, was called the Noſtra Signora de Cabadonga, and was commanded by Don Jeronimo de Mentero, a Portugueſe, who was an officer diſtinguiſhed by his ſkill and courage. The galleon was conſiderably larger than the Centurion, had 550 men, and 36 guns mounted for action, beſides 28 pedroroes in her gunwale quarters, and tops, each of which carried a four pound ball. She had 67 men killed in the action, and 84 wounded, while the Centurion had only two killed, and a lieutenant and 16 wounded, all of whom recovered, except one. It is impoſſible to deſcribe the tranſport on board, when after numerous diſappointments, they at laſt ſaw their wiſhes accompliſhed But this ſudden joy was on the point of being as ſuddenly damped by a moſt dreadful accident, for the galleon had no ſooner ſtruck, than one of the lieutenants coming to congratulate the Commodore on his prize, whiſpered him, that the Centurion was dangerouſly on fire near the powder-room. Mr. Anſon received this dreadful news without any apparent emotion, and taking care not to alarm his people, gave the neceſſary orders for extinguiſhing the fire, which was happily done in a ſhort time, though its appearance at firſt was extremely terrible. Some cartridges had been blown up by accident between decks, and the blaſt had communicated its flame to a quantity of oakum in the after hatch-way, near the powder-room, where the ſmoke of the oakum occaſioned the apprehenſion of a more extended, and dreadful conflagration, and even the hopes of avoiding its fury by eſcaping on

board

board the prize had vaniſhed; for at that inſtant, the galleon fell on the ſtar-board quarter of the Centurion, though ſhe was happily cleared, without doing or receiving any conſiderable damage.

Before night Mr. Saumarez, the Commodore's firſt lieutenant, ſent all the Spaniſh priſoners on board the Centurion, except ſuch as were thought moſt proper to be retained to aſſiſt in navigating the galleon, when Mr. Anſon learned from ſome of the priſoners, that the other Manila ſhip which he had the year before kept in the harbour of Acapulco, had ſet ſail much earlier than uſual, and had probably reached the port of Manila before the Centurion arrived off Cape Eſpiritu Santo, ſo that notwithſtanding Mr. Anſon's preſent ſucceſs, he had reaſon to regret his loſs of time at Macao, which had prevented his taking both theſe rich prizes.

The Commodore ordered the treaſure to be immediately removed into the Centurion, and was under much concern about ſecuring the priſoners, their numbers amounting to double the number of his own men, which being done, the Commodore reſolved to return to the river of Canton, and on the 11th of July came to an anchor off the city of Macao.

The particulars of the cargo of the galleon were by this time aſcertained, and ſhe was found to have on board 1,313,843 pieces of eight, and 35,682 oz. of virgin ſilver, beſides ſome cochineal, and a few other commodities; whence it appears that the whole treaſure taken from the Spaniards by the Centurion was not much ſhort of 400,000 *l.* independent of the ſhips and merchandize which ſhe had either burned or deſtroyed, which amounted to above 600,000 *l.* more, ſo that the

whole

whole damage done the enemy by Mr. Anſon's ſquadron exceeded a million ſterling, beſides the great expence of the court of Spain of fitting out Pizarro, and the loſs of the men of war employed in that expedition.

On the 14th of July the Centurion caſt anchor, ſhort of Bocca Tigris, which is a narrow paſſage that forms the mouth of that river, and propoſed to run through it the next day, as far as Tiger iſland, where there is a very ſafe road; but while the Centurion and her prize were thus at anchor, a boat was ſent by the Mandarine, who commands the fort at Bocca Tigris, to enquire what the ſhips were, and whence they came. Mr. Anſon told the officer, that his own ſhip was a man-of-war belonging to the king of Great Britain, and the other a prize he had taken. That he was going into Canton river to ſhelter himſelf againſt the approaching hurricanes, and that he ſhould ſail to England as ſoon as the monſoon ſhifted. The officer deſired an account of his force, which he was to ſend to the governor of Canton; but being told that there were in the Centurion between three and four hundred barrels of powder, and 400 firelocks, he ſhrugged up his ſhoulders, and appeared terrified at the bare recital, ſaying that no ſhips ever came into Canton river armed in that manner, and ſeemed amazed at Mr. Anſon's expecting to be exempted from all the duties paid to the emperor by the ſhips that enter his ports, and it is ſuppoſed that he gave private directions to the Chineſe pilot not to carry the Commodore through the Bocca Tigris.

The narrow paſſage, called the Bocca Tigris, is little more than muſket-ſhot over, and formed by two points of land, on each of which there is a fort: that on the ſtar-

ſtar-board ſide being a battery on the water's edge, with eighteen embraſures, but no more than twelve iron cannon mounted, which ſeemed to be four or ſix pounders. The fort on the larboard ſide is a large caſtle, ſituated on an high rock, and did not ſeem to exceed ſix pounders. Theſe defences the Chineſe had imagined ſufficient to prevent an enemy from forcing his way through, but would have been incapable of giving any obſtruction to Mr. Anſon's paſſage. However, the pilot, after the Chineſe officer had been on board, refuſed at firſt to take charge of the ſhip, without leave from the forts: but it being neceſſary to get through without delay, for fear of the bad weather, which was hourly expected, the Commodore weighed on the 15th, ordered the pilot to carry him by the forts, and threatened him, that if the ſhip run a-ground, he would inſtantly hang him up at the yard-arm. Upon which the pilot, terrified by theſe threats, carried the ſhip ſafely through, the forts not attempting to diſpute his paſſage. The poor pilot however, did not eſcape the reſentment of his countrymen, for on his going on ſhore, he was ſent to priſon, and rigorouſly diſciplined with a bamboa. He however afterwards went to Mr Anſon, to deſire ſome reward for the chaſtiſement he had ſuffered, of which he bore very evident marks, when Mr. Anſon pitying his ſufferings, gave him an handſome recompence. The Mandarine who commanded the forts was inſtantly turned out of his place, and carried to Canton, where it was expected that he would be ſeverely puniſhed for ſuffering the ſhips to paſs by.

On the 16th of July, Mr. Anſon ſent his ſecond lieutenant to Canton with a letter to the viceroy, to inform him

him of the reaſon of the Centurion's putting into that port, and that the Commodore propoſed to pay his excellency a viſit. The lieutenant had a very civil reception, and was promiſed that the next day an anſwer ſhould be ſent to the Commodore. Mean while, Mr. Anſon gave leave to ſeveral of the officers of the galleon, to go to Canton, on a promiſe of their returning in two days. When theſe priſoners got thither, they were ſent for and examined by the regency, upon which they had the honeſty to declare, that as the kings of Great Britain and Spain were at war, they had propoſed to take the Centurion, and with that view had bore down upon her; but that the event had been contrary to their hopes. And being afterwards queſtioned as to their uſage on board, they frankly acknowledged, that the Commodore had treated them much better than they believed they ſhould have treated him, had he fallen into their hands. This confeſſion from an enemy had great weight with the Chineſe, who had hitherto conſidered Mr. Anſon rather as a lawleſs freebooter, than as one commiſſioned by the ſtate for the revenge of public injuries. But now changing their opinion, they conſidered him as a very important perſon. In the examination there were two circumſtances, which, in the opinion of the Chineſe, appeared extremely ſingular; the Mandarines therefore aſked the Spaniards, how they came to be overpowered by ſo inferior a force, and how it appeared, ſince the two nations were at war, they were not put to death when they fell into the hands of the Engliſh? To the firſt of theſe queſtions the Spaniards anſwered, that tho' they had more men than the Centurion, yet ſhe being ſolely intended for war, was greatly ſuperior in the ſize

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of her guns, and in many other articles, to the galleon, which was a veſſel fitted out principally for trade; and as to the ſecond inquiry, they obſerved, that amongſt the nations of Europe, it was not cuſtomary to put thoſe to death who ſubmitted, though they readily acknowledged that the Commodore, from the natural bias of his temper, had treated both them and thoſe of their countrymen, who had been formerly in his power, with unuſual courteſy, much beyond what was expected, or than was required by the cuſtoms eſtabliſhed between nations at war. With theſe replies, the Chineſe were fully ſatisfied, and from them entertained very favourable ſentiments of the Commodore.

In the morning of the 20th of July, three Mandarines, with a vaſt retinue in a great number of boats, came on board the Centurion, and delivered to the Commodore, an order from the viceroy of Canton for a daily ſupply of proviſions, and for pilots to convey the ſhips up the river as far as the ſecond bar. They alſo delivered him a meſſage from the viceroy, in anſwer to his letter; in which he deſired to be excuſed from receiving the Commodore's viſit, during the exceſſive heat of the weather, but that he ſhould be glad to ſee him in September.

The Mandarines having delivered their meſſage, began to talk to the Commodore on the duties to be paid by his ſhips; but he immediately let them know, he would never ſubmit to any demand of that kind, and that as he did not come to trade with them, he could not be deemed within the meaning of the emperor's orders; and added, that no duties were ever demanded of men-of-war by nations accuſtomed to receive them, and that he was

expreſly forbid, in the orders he had received from his maſter, to pay any acknowledgment for his ſhip's anchoring in any port whatever.

The Mandarines then obſerved, that they had another affair to mention, and ſollicited him to releaſe the priſoners he had on board the galleon, obſerving that the viceroy of Canton apprehended, that the emperor his maſter would be diſpleaſed, if he ſhould be informed that perſons who were his allies, and carried on a great commerce with his ſubjects, were under confinement in his dominions. But though Mr. Anſon was extremely deſirous of getting rid of the Spaniards, he at firſt, to enhance the favour, raiſed ſome difficulties, but at laſt ſuffering himſelf to be prevailed on, he told the Mandarines, that, to ſhew his readineſs to oblige the viceroy, he would releaſe the priſoners whenever they would order boats to fetch them off. This affair being thus adjuſted, the Mandarines departed. A few days after, two Chineſe junks were ſent for them, when the Commodore diſmiſſed them all, and as they were to be carried to Macao, allowed them eight days proviſions for their ſubſiſtence while they fell down the river.

Though the Commodore found no difficulty in purchaſing proviſions for the daily conſumption of his men, yet he was under much perplexity about laying in ſuch a large quantity, both of proviſions and naval ſtores as would be neceſſary to carry him to England. There were indeed people at Canton, who had engaged to furniſh him with biſcuit, and whatever elſe he wanted; but after being aſſured from day to day that all was ready, and would be immediately ſent on board, he had the vexation to be informed, that no order had been procu-

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red from the viceroy to furniſh him with naval ſtores, and that there was no biſcuit baked, nor any of the articles which had been promiſed him in readineſs.

It is, perhaps, impoſſible to account for the inſincerity of the Chineſe in this particular. However, Mr. Anſon found by experience, that in artifice, falſhood, and avarice, many of the Chineſe are ſcarcely to be paralelled by any other people upon earth, which will be ſufficiently evident, from the following ſhameful inſtances of the fradulent and ſelfiſh turn of temper peculiar to that nation.

While the Commodore firſt lay at Macao, one of his officers who had juſt recovered from a fit of illneſs, deſired leave to take a walk every day upon a neighbouring iſland, which he imagined would greatly contribute to the recovery of his ſtrength. Though the Commodore would have perſwaded him from it, yet the importunity of the officer prevailed, and the boat was ordered to carry him thither; but the ſecond day of his taking this exerciſe he was aſſaulted by a number of Chineſe, who had been hoeing rice in the neighbourhood, who ſtruck him with the handles of their hoes, till they had laid him on the ground incapable of reſiſtance, and then robbed him of his ſword, his money, watch, gold-headed cane, hat, ſnuff-box, ſleeve-buttons, and ſeveral other trinkets. Mean while, the boat's crew being without arms at a ſmall diſtance, one of them flew on the fellow who had the ſword, and wreſting it out of his hands, drew it, and was preparing to run ſome of the Chineſe through the body; the officer immediately ordered him to deſiſt, thinking it more prudent to ſubmit, than to involve his commander in a quarrel with the Chineſe governor; which was the

more admired, as this gentleman was known to have an uncommon ſpirit, and to be of an haſty temper. By this means the Chineſe recovered the ſword, and carried off their whole booty unmoleſted. No ſooner were they gone, than a Chineſe, who had the air and appearance of a gentleman, rode on horſeback to the ſea ſide, and by his ſigns ſeemed to commiſerate the officer; but though he was wonderfully officious in getting him into the boat, he was ſhrewdly ſuſpected of being an accomplice in the robbery.

The officer at his return, reported what had paſſed to Mr. Anſon, and he immediately complained of it to a Mandarine who attended to ſee the ſhip ſupplied with proviſions. The Mandarine found fault with the boat's going on ſhore; but promiſed, that if the robbers could be found, they ſhould be puniſhed; it however plainly appeared, that he would give himſelf no trouble about them. A conſiderable time afterwards, one of the principal theives was ſeen in a proviſion-boat along ſide the ſhip, and orders being immediately given to ſeize him, he was taken on board. The robber on his being firſt apprehended, expreſſed ſuch fright in his countenance, that it was feared he would have died upon the ſpot, and the Commodore declaring, to the Mandarine who attended the ſhip, that he would not deliver up the robber, but would himſelf order him to be ſhot; the Mandarine inſtantly put off the magiſterial air, with which he had at firſt demanded him, and begged his releaſe in the moſt abject terms; when the Commodore appearing inflexible, in leſs than two hours there came on board five or ſix of the neighbouring Mandarines, who joined in the ſame intreaties, and offered a large ſum of money for the fellow's

low's liberty. While they were thus ſolliciting, it was diſcovered, that the moſt aſſiduous Mandarine, was the very gentleman who rode up to the officer, after the robbery, and who pretended to be ſo highly diſpleaſed with the villany of his countrymen. It was alſo found on further enquiry, that he was the Mandarine of the iſland, and had, by the authority of his office, ordered the peaſants to commit that act of violence. Hence aroſe his extraordinary vigilance, and from ſome caſual hints it appeared, that he and his brethern, every one of whom had been privy to the action, were terrified with the apprehenſion of being called before the tribunal of Canton, where they would be immediately ſtripped of all they were worth. Mr. Anſon entertained himſelf for ſome time with their perplexity, rejected their money with ſcorn, appeared inexorable to their prayers, and gave out that the thief ſhould be ſhot, but at laſt ſuffered himſelf to be perſwaded, and as a favour releaſed his priſoner, though not till the Mandarine had collected and returned all that had been taken from the officer, even to the minuteſt trifle.

But the avarice of the Chineſe, notwithſtanding the good intelligence which ſubſiſts between the magiſtrates and criminals, frequently prompts them to defraud the perſons by whom they are protected of their ſhare of the pillage. A ſhort time after the above tranſaction, the Mandarine attendant on the ſhip being relieved by another, the Commodore loſt his top-maſt from his ſtern, which he had borrowed at Macao, and being extremely deſirous to recover it, offered a conſiderable reward to any who would bring it again. Soon after he was informed by the Mandarine, that ſome of his attendants

had found it, and desired the Commodore to send his boats for it, which being done, the Mandarine's people received the reward. But besides this, the Commodore had told the Mandarine, that he would make him a present for his care in directing it to be searched for, and accordingly gave his linguist some money, with orders to deliver it to the Mandarine; but the linguist being ignorant, that a future present had been promised, kept the money himself. However, the Mandarine confiding in Mr. Anson's promise, took occasion one morning to admire the size of the Centurion's masts, and from thence made a digression to the top-mast, which had been lost, and asked Mr. Anson if he had not got it again. Mr. Anson soon perceived what he aimed at, and enquired if he had not received the money from the linguist, and finding he had not, offered to pay him immediately; but this the Mandarine refused, having some more important affair in view. For the next day the linguist being seized, was fined all he had got in the Commodore's service, which was supposed to be little less than 2000 dollars, and was besides so severely bastinadoed, that it was a wonder he escaped with his life. But when the Commodore, to whom he afterwards came a begging, upbraiding him with his folly in risking the severe chastisement, and the loss of all he was worth, for the sake of fifty dollars, of which he had defrauded the Mandarine, he had no other excuse to make, but crying in his broken jargon, *Chinese man very great rogue truly: but have fashion no can help.*

There would be no end of recounting all the frauds, extortions, and artifices practised by these selfish people on the Commodore. As the method of buying provisi-

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ons in China is by weight, they uſed the moſt incredible methods to augment the weight of what they ſold to Mr. Anſon. Thus a large quantity of fowls and ducks being bought for the ſhip's ſtore, the greateſt part of them preſently died, which alarmed all on board from the apprehenſion of their being poiſoned; but on examination it was found to be owing to their being crammed with ſtones and gravel to increaſe their weight; the quantity thus forced into moſt of the ducks amounting to ten ounces in each. The hogs brought ready killed, had water injected into them for the ſame purpoſe, ſo that a carcaſe, hung up all night for the water to drain out of it, loſt above a ſtone of its weight. To avoid this cheat, the Commodore bought the hogs alive, when it was diſcovered that the Chineſe gave them ſalt to increaſe their thirſt, and having made them drink great quantities of water, took meaſures to prevent their diſcharging it. As the Chineſe never ſcruple eating any food that dies of itſelf, they practiſed another artifice; when the Commodore firſt put to ſea from Macao, they by ſome ſecret practices contrived that great part of his live ſtore ſhould die in a ſhort time after it was put on board, and two thirds of the hogs dying before the Centurion was out of ſight of land, ſhe was followed by many of the Chineſe boats, with no other view but to pick up the carcaſſes.

Towards the end of September, the Commodore finding that he was deceived by thoſe who had contracted to ſupply him with ſea proviſions; and that the viceroy had not, according to his promiſe, invited him to an interview, found it impoſſible to ſurmount the difficulties he was under, without going to Canton and viſiting the viceroy. He therefore prepared for this expedition:

the boat's crew were cloathed in an uniform dreſs, reſembling that of the watermen on the Thames. They were in number eighteen, and a coxſwain; they had ſcarlet jackets, and blue ſilk waiſtcoats, the whole trimmed with ſilver buttons, and had alſo ſilver badges on their jackets and caps. As it was apprehended, that the cuſtomary duties would be demanded by the regency of Canton for the Centurion and her prize, and would be inſiſted on previous to their granting a permiſſion to victual the ſhip; the Commodore who had reſolved never to eſtabliſh ſo diſhonourable a precedent, appointed Mr. Brett to be captain of the Centurion under him, directing him, in caſe he ſhould be detained at Canton on account of the duties in diſpute, to deſtroy the Centurion's prize, and then to proceed down the river through the Bocca Tigris, and to remain without that entrance, till he received farther orders. On the 13th of October the Commodore continuing firm to his reſolution, all the ſupercargoes of the Engliſh, Daniſh, and Swediſh ſhips came on board the Centurion to accompany him to Canton, for which city he the ſame day ſet out in his barge, attended by his own boats, and by thoſe of the trading ſhips which were ſent to augment his retinue. As he paſſed by Wampo, where the European veſſels lay, he was ſaluted by all of them except the French, and the ſame evening arrived ſafe at Canton.

The Commodore on his arrival at that city, was viſited by the principal Chineſe merchants, who promiſed to inform the viceroy of his being at Canton; but the next day pretended that his excellency was ſo buſy, that there was no getting admittance to him. They then prepoſſeſſed the ſupercargoes of the Engliſh ſhips, with a fear

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of being embroiled with the government, and of ſuffering in their intereſts; when to quiet the uneaſineſs of theſe ſupercargoes, Mr. Anſon conſented not to take any immediate ſtep for getting admittance to the viceroy, provided the Chineſe, who contracted to furniſh his proviſions would let him ſee that his bread was baked, his meat ſalted, and his ſtores prepared with the utmoſt diſpatch; but notwithſtanding the equity of theſe conditions, many difficulties and objections were urged, nor would the Chineſe agree to the propoſal, till the Commodore had conſented to pay for every article before it was put in hand. While the ſtores and proviſions were getting ready, the merchants continually entertained Mr. Anſon with accounts of their various endeavours to procure a licence from the viceroy, and their frequent diſappointments. But at length every thing being compleated and ready to be ſhipped, he reſolved to demand an audience of the viceroy, as he found that without this ceremony, it would be difficult to obtain permiſſion to take his ſtores on board. Mr. Anſon therefore ſent one of his officers to the Mandarine, who commanded the guard of the principal gate at Canton, with a letter directed to the viceroy. This Mandarine received the officer very civilly, took down the contents of the letter in Chineſe, promiſing that the viceroy ſhould be immediately acquainted with it, and that a meſſage ſhould be ſent to the Commodore. Mr. Anſon had been under great difficulties about a proper interpreter, but he happily prevailed with Mr. Flint, an Engliſh gentleman belonging to the factory, who ſpoke Chineſe well, to accompany his officer. He had been left at Canton when a youth, and

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was upon that, and many other occaſions, of ſignal ſervice to the Commodore.

Two days after the above letter was ſent, a fire broke out in the ſuburbs of Canton. Mr. Anſon on the firſt alarm went thither to aſſiſt the Chineſe, attended by his officers and boat's crew; when he found that it begun in a ſailor's ſhade, and that by the ſlightneſs of the buildings, and the timorous awkwardneſs of the Chineſe, it was getting a-head. But obſerving that it was running along a wooden cornice, which blazed fiercely, and would ſoon ſpread the flame to a great diſtance, he ordered his people to begin with pulling the cornice down, which would ſoon have been executed; but being told, that as there was no Mandarine there, who alone has a power to direct on thoſe occaſions, the Chineſe would make him pay for whatever was pulled down by his orders, he directed his attendants to deſiſt, and ſent them to the Engliſh factory, to aſſiſt in ſecuring the company's treaſure and effects, it being eaſy to foreſee, that no diſtance could be a protection againſt the rage of ſuch a fire, where ſo little was done to put a ſtop to it. All this while the Chineſe were contented with viewing it, and now and then holding one of their idols near it, which they ſeemed to expect ſhould check its progreſs. At laſt, however, a Mandarine came from the city, attended by four or five hundred firemen, who made ſome feeble efforts to pull down the neighbouring houſes; but by this time the fire had ſpread prodigiouſly, and was got amongſt the merchants ware-houſes, and the Chineſe firemen wanting both ſkill and ſpirit, were unable to check its fury, ſo that it encreaſed ſo faſt, that it was feared the whole city would be deſtroyed. In this general confuſion, the

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viceroy himſelf went thither, and a meſſage was ſent to the Commodore to entreat him to afford his aſſiſtance, and to let him know that he might take ſuch meaſures as he thought prudent for extinguiſhing the conflagration. Upon this, the Commodore went thither a ſecond time, with about forty of his people, who in the ſight of the whole city exerted themſelves in ſo extraordinary a manner, as in that country was altogether without example. They behaved with a boldneſs and agility peculiar to ſailors, and ſeemed rather animated than deterred by the flames and buildings, among which they exerted themſelves; whence by their reſolution and activity, the fire, to the amazement of the Chineſe, was ſoon extinguiſhed, and the buildings being all on one floor, and the materials ſlight, the ſeamen, notwithſtanding their daring behaviour, eſcaped with a few inconſiderable burns and bruiſes.

This fire conſumed 100 ſhops and 11 ſtreets full of ware-houſes, ſo that the damage amounted to an immenſe ſum, and one of the Chineſe merchants, well known to the Engliſh, was ſuppoſed to loſe, for his own ſhare, near 200,000*l. ſterling.* The principal reaſon of its raging with ſuch violence was, there being large quantities of camphire in many of the ware-houſes, which produced a column of white flame, and blazed up into the air to ſuch a prodigious height, that it was plainly ſeen on board the Centurion, notwithſtanding her being at leaſt thirty miles diſtant.

While Mr. Anſon and his people were endeavouring to extinguiſh the fire, and the whole city were poſſeſſed with the terror of its becoming general, ſeveral of the moſt conſiderable Chineſe merchants applied to Mr. Anſon,

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to beſeech him to let each of them have one of his ſoldiers, for ſuch they ſtiled his boat's crew, from the uniformity of their dreſs, to guard their ware-houſes and dwellings, which, from the diſhoneſty of the populace, they apprehended would be plundered in the tumult. This requeſt Mr. Anſon granted, and all the men thus employed behaved much to the ſatisfaction of the merchants, who afterwards highly applauded their fidelity and diligence.

The intrepidity of the Engliſh, in putting a ſtop to the fire, and their prudence and honeſty where they were employed as guards, was the general ſubject of converſation among the Chineſe; and the next morning many of the principal inhabitants waited on the Commodore to thank him for his aſſiſtance, freely owning, that he had preſerved the city from being intirely conſumed, ſince they could never have extinguiſhed the fire of themſelves. Soon after the Commodore received a meſſage from the viceroy, appointing the 30th of November for his audience, which ſudden reſolution was owing to the ſignal ſervices performed by Mr. Anſon and his people on this occaſion.

The Commodore was much pleaſed at having his audience fixed, ſince he was convinced that the Chineſe government would not have come to this determination, had they not reſolved to give up their pretenſions to the duties they claimed, and to grant him every thing he could reaſonably deſire. The Commodore therefore prepared for this event, and engaged Mr. Flint to act as an interpreter in the conference.

On the day appointed, a Mandarine came to the Commodore at 10 o'clock in the morning, to let him know

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that the viceroy was prepared, and expected him; on which the Commodore and his retinue immediately ſet out. At his entering the outward gate of the city, he found a guard of 200 ſoldiers, who attended him to the great parade before the emperor's palace, where the viceroy then reſided, and where a body of troops to the number of 10,000, were drawn up under arms, and being all new cloathed for this new ceremony, made a very fine appearance. The Commodore, with his retinue having paſſed through the middle of them, was conducted to the great hall of audience, where the viceroy was ſeated under a rich canopy in the emperor's chair of ſtate, with all his council of Mandarines attending him. There was a vacant ſeat, in which the Commodore was placed on his arrival, which was the third from the viceroy, there being only above him the chiefs of the law and the treaſury, who in the Chineſe government precede all military officers. When the Commodore had taken his ſeat, he addreſſed himſelf to the viceroy by his interpreter, and began with mentioning the various methods he had taken to obtain an audience; the delays he had met with, and the inſincerity of thoſe he had employed, which had obliged him to ſend his own officer with a letter to the gate. The viceroy here interrupted the interpreter, and bid him aſſure the Commodore, that the firſt knowledge he had of his being at Canton, was from that letter. The Commodore then complained to him of ſeveral grievances ſuffered by the Eaſt-India company, from the vexatious impoſitions of the merchants, and inferior cuſtom-houſe officers, and at length entered upon his own affairs, and informed the viceroy, that this was the proper ſeaſon for returning

turning to Europe. That he wanted only a licence to ſhip off his proviſions and ſtores, which were all ready, and that as ſoon as he had got his neceſſaries on board, he intended to leave the river of Canton and ſail for England. To this the viceroy replied, that the licence ſhould be immediately iſſued, and that the following day every thing ſhould be ordered on board; then finding Mr. Anſon had nothing further to inſiſt on, he, for ſome time, continued the converſation, acknowledged, in very civil terms, how much the Chineſe were obliged to him, for his ſignal ſervices at the fire, and owned that he had ſaved the city from being deſtroyed; then obſerving that the Centurion had been a good while on their coaſt, he wiſhed the Commodore a proſperous voyage to Europe; after which the Commodore thanking him for his civilty and aſſiſtance, took his leave.

The Commodore was no ſooner out of the hall, than he was much preſſed to go into a neighbouring apartment, where an entertainment was provided, but finding that the viceroy was not to be preſent, he declined the invitation, and departed, attended in the ſame manner as at his arrival, only, on his leaving the city he was ſaluted by three guns, which are the moſt that are ever fired by the Chineſe on any ceremony.

The Commodore had now, to his great joy, at laſt finiſhed this troubleſome affair; had procured a licence for ſhipping off his ſtores, and eſtabliſhed an authentic precedent, by which his majeſty's ſhips of war will for the future be exempted from the payment of duty in any of theſe Chineſe ports.

The Commodore's proviſions were begun to be ſent on board, according to the viceroy's promiſe, the day

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ſucceeding the audience, and four days after the Commodore embarked for the Centurion, and all the preparations for putting to ſea, were purſued with ſuch vigour, that on the 7th of December, the Centurion and her prize unmoord, and on the 12th anchored before Macao, where the merchants of that town purchaſed the galleon for 6000 dollars, which was much below her value; but theſe merchants inſiſted on theſe unequal terms from their knowing the Commodore's impatience to put to ſea; and ſhe being delivered up on the 15th of December 1743, the Centurion the ſame day got under ſail, and the 3d of January ſhe came to an anchor at Prince's iſland in the ſtraits of Sunda, where ſhe continued taking in wood and water till the eight, and then ſtanding for the Cape of Good Hope, anchored in Table bay on the 11th of March. This Dutch ſettlement is the beſt provided of any in the known world, for the refreſhment of ſeamen after long voyages. The Commodore continued there till the beginning of April, highly delighted with the picturesque appearance of the country, the healthfulneſs of its air, and its extraordinary accommodations. While he ſtaid there he entered about forty new men, and on the 3d of April, having compleated taking in water and proviſions, put to ſea. On the 19th of April, the Centurion was within ſight of the iſland of St. Helena, but did not touch at it. On the 10th of June he ſpoke with an Engliſh ſhip bound for Philadelphia, from whom the Commodore received the firſt intelligence of a French war, and though there was at that time a conſiderable French fleet cruizing in the chops of the channel, the Centurion ran through, being all the time concealed by a fog. In ſhort, on the 15th of the ſame month, to

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the inexpreſſible joy of the whole crew, the Centurion came to an anchor at Spithead. Thus after a ſeries of the moſt extraordinary adventures, and the moſt dreadful ſcenes of diſtreſs, did they encompaſs the globe in three years and nine months. All England rejoiced at the news; the treaſures taken by the Centurion, were conveyed in many waggons, adorned with Spaniſh flags, through the ſtreets of London, amidſt the acclamations of the multitude. Mr. Anſon was juſtly loaded with honours, and the meaneſt ſailor who had ſhared in all the dangers and diſtreſſes of theſe glorious enterprizes, had not only the ſatisfaction of having contributed to humble the pride of the enemies of his country; but of being made rich with the ſpoils.

THE END.

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